

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

10:00 am

Communion

Rally Day



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

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA
Founded in 1743**

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Sunday 9/13 TODAY	10:00	am	Worship (Live Streaming)
Monday	7:30	pm	AA Meeting
Tuesday	5:00	pm	Tai Kwan Do
Thursday	7:00	pm	Christian Ed Meeting
Sunday 9/20	10:00	am	Worship (Live Streaming)
	10:45	am	Teacher Installment

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Southeastern Pa. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Tina Mackie

Confidential email: pastor@zionofspringcity.org

Diane Sakal, Interim office manager	Lori Hoshaw, Music Director
Shawn Rogers, Sexton	Shawn Rogers, Christian Education Director
Jack Florio, Financial Secretary	Amy Kirk, Parish Post / Social Media Editor
Daniel L. Bauman, Cemetery Superintendent & Maintenance Manager	



Summer Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Church Telephone: 610-948-3323 e-mail: church@zionofspringcity.org

Web site: www.zionofspringcity.org Facebook: ZionofSpringCity

Zion Lutheran Pre-School

Dawn Platchek, Director

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

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Genesis 37:12-36	Joseph's brothers sin against him.
Tuesday	Genesis 41:53-42:17	Joseph act harshly against them.
Wednesday	Matthew 6:7-15	Forgiving on another.
Thursday	Genesis 45:1-20	Joseph forgives his brothers.
Friday	Romans 14:13-15:2	Building each other up.
Saturday	Psalms 133	How good it is to live in unity.

✝ **We will not be having Nursery during church until further notice** ✝

Sunday, September 13th – 10:00 a.m.
15th Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Today's readings question why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

PRELUDES

"Andante"
"A Time for New Beginnings"
"A Garden Meditation"
"Be Thou My Vision"

W. A. Mozart
L. Smith
E. Broughton
R. Thygeson

Licensing for Organ Music - 1996 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of Lorenz Publishing Company, All Rights Reserved.
1999 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of Lorenz Publishing Company, All rights Reserved.

CALL TO WORSHIP – CHIMES

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor says Good Morning and Welcome

GREETING

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: Have mercy on us.

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Immortal Invisible, God only Wise"

Sung by Barbara Grubb

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small, in all life thou livest, the true life of all;

We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908

Music: Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory Be to God in Heaven

Sung by Barbara Grubb

C: Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

**We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you: here on earth our songs we raise.
Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
On the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call:
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Today's readings question why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world

C: Amen

FIRST READING: Exodus 14:19-31

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the LORD and in the LORD's servant Moses.

R: A reading from the 14th chapter of the book of Exodus:

R: ¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

R: The Word of the Lord.

P & A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

R: We will read Psalm 103 responsively

R[¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

C: ²Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.

R: ³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

C: ⁴who redeems your life | from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

R: ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

C: ⁶O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

R: ⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]

C: ⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

R: ⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

C: ¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

R: ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

C: ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

R: ¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

THE ACCLAMATION

Alleluia (Sung)

Sung by Barbara Grubb



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ

THE CHILDREN'S TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC – Emily Hoshaw on Viola
Accompanied by Lori Hoshaw on Piano

"Minuet in C"

J. S. Bach

SERMON

by Pastor Tina Mackie

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Softly and Tenderly"

Sung by Barbara Grubb

Refrain: "Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "o sinner, come home!"

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me..
3. Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me..

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
Music Will L. Thompson

A: Let us profess our Faith with the Apostle's Creed

APOSTLES' CREED

**P & A: 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,
born of the virgin Mary, 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 list through by contacting the church office. After three weeks names will be removed from the prayer of intercession unless resubmitted. These removed people will still be in our private prayers

A: Drawn together by the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(A brief silence)

A: God of open arms, make Christians into signs of your gracious welcome, to both members and newcomers, whether meeting physically or digitally. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries, and nurture new ventures for education and growth. Bless bishops, pastors, and deacons for their work in this unprecedented time.

(A brief silence)

O God, you are full of compassion;

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of lands and seas, continue your care for your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we ask you to heal and renew your earth. Preserve the lands from fire and storm. Protect the sources of food that your creatures need for life.

(A brief silence).

O God, you are full of compassion;

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of justice, lead the nations away from the ways of violence. Guide the United Nations and other organizations that seek reconciliation across national borders. Show families, neighborhoods, and nations how to welcome diversity while sharing common ground. Preserve our election season from abuse and rancor.

(A brief silence)

O God, you are full of compassion;

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of our homeland, visit the American cities that are addressing local racism. Stand with both protesters and police, that civil society may be preserved and improved. Bring both healing and justice to our land.

(A brief silence)

O God, you are full of compassion;

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of the sufferers, visit prisons and care homes with health and hope. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor. Deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger and provide safety to migrants.

Protect firefighters and first responders. Heal the sick, especially those we name here before you:
Virgil Emswiler, Ralph Finkbinder, Judi Geri, Robert Hindle, and Rich Kleylein.

(A brief silence)

O God, you are full of compassion;

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of goodness, once more we beg for a way through the pandemic. Comfort the afflicted. Support medical workers. Prepare a vaccine.

(A brief silence)

O God, you are full of compassion;

C: Receive our prayer.

P: God of tender power, we live to you. Hear now, we pray, the desires of our hearts.

(prayers from your heart for those you care about)

(A longer period of silence)

Others for whom you may wish to pray: (names submitted by our members):

Kenneth Bauer, Ellen Levy-Gray, Dottie Jacques, Mary Lesh, Diane Pannella, Judi Rittenhouse, Lynn Schmitt, Vicki Walker, and Greg Wicker, Deb Althoff, Mike Anthony, Joanne Frederick, John Frederick, Deb Hoff, Glenn Hoff, Amy Hollar, Tom Hughes, Ryan Law, Cindy Levengood, Jay Markwart, James Newson, Jennifer Paris, Brian Spitko, Doris Sypher, Ron Taylor, Chuck Vammen, Brookelyn Rogers and Luke Walton

(A brief silence)

O God, you are full of compassion;

C: Receive our prayer.

P: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have led us in the faith, especially those we commemorate this week: John Chrysostom, bishop Cyprian, Hildegard of Bingen, and Dag Hammarskjöld. Hold us with them in your everlasting love.

(A brief silence)

O God, you are full of compassion;

C: Receive our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to 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 all.

C: And also with you.

Let us share the peace with one another

(Please keep in mind Social Distancing)

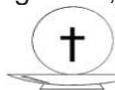
OFFERING

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. – Matthew 14:26-27

*If you wish to make an electronic offering at this time, please go to our website;
zionofspringcity.org and make your contribution there.*

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**



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.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sung)

Sung by Barbara Grubb

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness; through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future.

C: We bless you, O Lord.

P: We give you thanks for your Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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: Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast. **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)

P: *Blessing of the Young (Parent(s)/Grandparent(s) will place their hands on untutored young people for a blessing)*

ALWAYS WANTED TO BE PART OF THE WORSHIP TEAM???

There are probably lots of you out there who always thought it would be fun to help out during our worship services. There are many ways to help:

**ASSISTANT MINISTER - LAY READER – GREETER – ACOLYTE
ALTER GUILD – COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

Don't worry, we will be sure to teach you what you need to know for whatever you want to help with. Just let us know what you want to do. You can call the office 610-948-3323, or e-mail the office at: church@zionofspringcity.org.

HYMN SINGERS AND SPECIAL MUSIC

Do you or a loved one have a special talent?

We are always looking for people to sing the hymns or to do Special Music on Sundays.

If interested, please send Lori Hoshaw an email lchoshaw1@gmail.com or call her at 484-369-9452 and let her know.