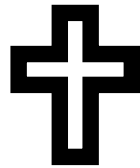


TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, July 28th, 2024

9:00 am

Service of Holy Communion



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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA
Founded in 1743

Sunday, July 28th, 2024 – River Sunday

INTRODUCTION

We embody our reverence for God's presence in many different ways. You may show your reverence for God's presence in whatever way is right for you. You might do this by standing, folding your hands or raising them, bowing your head, or entering more deeply into reverence in ways that are not visible, even as they are deeply felt.

*Note that congregational responses are printed in **bold**. Children's worship kits (complete with children's bulletins, coloring materials and fidgets) can be found at the usher's station.*

This week is River Sunday! Joined together with the saints from every age, we follow the shores of the rivers of life with joy, lament, praise and hope. As we prepare for worship this day, we wonder... which body of water do you have the strongest memories of?

PRELUDES

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Tune: J. Wyeth; Setting: Franklin D. Ashdown

Good, Good Father

Words & Music: Anthony Brown & Pat Barrett; Arr.: Carol Tournquist

Prayer Song

Robert Schumann; Arr.: Susanna Keeney

GREETING

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

More announcements can be found in the back of your bulletin. If you have an announcement you would like printed, please let Erin, our office manager, know by sending it to church@zionofspringcity.org!

GATHERING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River? – verses 1, 3, 4

ELW 423



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.



THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Whenever the cross † symbol appears, all may make the sign of the cross on their own bodies: forehead, chest, left shoulder, right shoulder.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the splitting of the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the Jordan River your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as your children,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

To you be given honor and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

— WORD —

God speaks in scripture, preaching, song and prayer.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God who made the waters of the earth, **we praise you for freshwater rivers and streams, we praise you for saltwater oceans and seas, we praise you for bayous and mangrove forests in between. May we protect your waters for all of time. May the rivers of life flow through us forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 47:1-7

Ezekiel receives a vision from God: water will flow from the Temple into the east, first a trickle and then at last a mighty river. Water flowing to the east would hit the Dead Sea, a salt sea not conducive to life, but the freshwater flowing from the Temple would be enough to bring life where there was death.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel:

¹The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. ²He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

³As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits^[a] and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. ⁴He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. ⁵He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. ⁶He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁷When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



PSALM

Psalm 137

This is a psalm of lament, written during the exile in 586 BCE, when the people of Jerusalem (poetically called Zion) were taken into captivity in Babylon.

*This week, the psalm will be read dramatically by one voice.
The assembly will join in the refrain.*

Refrain:

musical notation for the refrain: "You o - pen wide your hand and sat - is - fy the de - sire of ev - 'ry liv - ing thing."

- ¹ By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.
- ² There on the poplars
we hung our harps,
- ³ for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" **Refrain**
- ⁴ How can we sing the songs of the LORD
while in a foreign land?
- ⁵ If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
- ⁶ May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.
- ⁷ Remember, LORD, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell. **Refrain**
- "Tear it down," they cried,
"tear it down to its foundations!"
- ⁸ Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,
happy is the one who repays you
according to what you have done to us.
- ⁹ Happy is the one who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks. **Refrain**

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:1-5

In this rarely-read passage from Revelation, we hear a vision of the kingdom of God: from the throne of God in the center of the city of life, a river flows, clear as crystal. It waters the banks so that miraculous trees of every kind can grow and bear fruit.

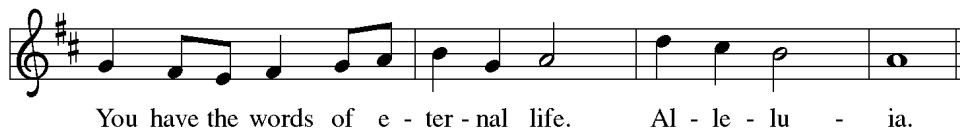
A reading from the book of Revelation:

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

At this time, the congregation may rise in body or in spirit to greet the holy gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

This is the Holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his

message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with^[a] water, but he will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Gospel Acclamation is reprised.

SERMON



SILENT MEDITATION

We are called in and out of a time of reflection by the ringing of a bell.

HYMN OF THE DAY

As The Deer

W&P #9

As the deer pant-eth for the wa-ter, so my
 You're my friend and You are the my broth-er, e-ven
 I want You more than gold or sil-ver; on-ly
 soul long-eth af-ter Thee. You a-lone are my
 though You are a King. I love You more than
 You can sat-is-fy. You a-lone are the
 heart's de-sire and I long to wor-ship Thee.
 an-y oth-er, so much more than an-y-thing.
 real joy giv-er and the ap-ple of my eye.
 You a-lone are my strength, my shield. To You a-lone may my
 spir-it yield. You a-lone are my
 heart's de-sire and I long to wor-ship Thee.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the ancient words of the apostle's 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

United as one in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space, and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of creation, you bring the thunder and the mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering *especially* **Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Greg Wicker, Joan Emswiler, Jeanette Kaufmann, Aubree Pascale, Mary Lesh, Brookelyn Rogers, Bob Bell, Dan DeFusco, Belinda Schell, Barbara Carberry, Fran O'Neill, Lisa McComb, Paula Kaiser, Robin Sexto, John Barnett, Martin Gavin, Kathy Eardley & Lois Omelko**; to you we lift up all families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavors, that your glory may be made known, and your loving kindness shared anew. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all, your love in Christ surpasses all knowledge. We give thanks for the departed who have come to know the fullness of your grace. Join our voices with theirs and all the saints in singing your praises. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children (and guardians) are invited to come close for a story.

— HOLY COMMUNION —

God feeds us with the presence of the risen Christ.

OFFERING

We reflect on our stewardship of the gifts of God entrusted to us for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Financial gifts may be offered in the passed plates, or online at zionofspringcity.org.

OFFERING MUSIC

Troublesome Waters

Words and Music by E. Carter, M. Carter, & D. Hall
Brian Mickiewicz - Vocal/Guitar



OFFERING HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

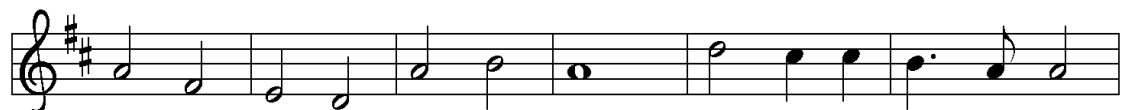
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.


In these weeks after Pentecost, in this time of the color green
and the Spirit poured out on us, 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:




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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.
We praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

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

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

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.

Remembering his love for us
on the way, at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world. **Amen.**



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

In this place, we have red wine, white grape juice, bread, and gluten-free wafers. Though the sacrament of communion is most appropriate for baptized Christians, all are welcome at Christ's table, and nothing in all creation can separate you from the love of God. If you would like to come forward for a blessing instead of communing, you may indicate that by crossing your hands over your chest. If you would like to take communion at your seat, please let an usher know and the ministers will come to you.

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come and see!

AGNUS DEI

During the Lamb of God, the communion ministers come to the altar for communion. Once the ministers are ready, the congregation may come forward, row by row. Bread and wafers are available in the center. Red wine and white grape juice are available on the left side of the altar, and red wine on the right side.



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.

SHARING IN COMMUNION

This is the Body of Christ, given for you.

I believe or Amen. *(Congregation may eat the bread or wafer)*

This is the Blood of Christ, given for you.

I believe or Amen. *(Congregation may drink the wine or juice)*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Taste and See

ELW 493

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.



— SENDING —

God feeds us with the presence of the risen Christ.

SENDING HYMN

When Peace Like a River - Verses 1, 2 & 4

ELW 785



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Ash Grove

Traditional Welsh Melody; Arr.: Todd Kendall

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

*Let Erin know if you have something to add or if you'd like to sponsor bulletins or altar flowers!
Email church@zionofspringcity.org.*

Coming up...

- Today - **Sunday, July 28th** – Whitewater rafting after church!
- **Sunday, August 25th** – Hymn Request Sunday! Reach out to Erin or Lori with your favorite hymns so we can make sure to sing them.
- **Sunday, September 29th** – Joint Service at Centennial, followed by Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event here at Zion! Email Erin to sign up as a volunteer! (We need 100 people total from all of our Parish churches, bring a friend!)

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