

Zion St. John Lutheran Church

Being the Body of Christ

Pastor Kim Wills 422 Sherman St., Box 269, Sheffield, IA 50475

Phone: 892-4010 Cell: 641-425-9453 Email: pastor@zionstjohn.org

July 26, 2026

9:00 am

9th Sunday of Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **Amen**

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -

ev - er and ev - er. | Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O

God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O

Rul - er of all the na - tions. Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and

sing the glo - ry of your name? *Refrain*

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

bles - ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! *Refrain*

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Sit

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he

foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to St Matthew the thirteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Thou My Vision

#793

Stand

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by 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**

THE PRAYERS

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
Amen

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING

Seek Ye First

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

783

Chorus

Al - le - lu - ia, al -
D G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God; and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al -
D Em A7 D F#m

right - teous - ness, and knock all these things shall be
you shall find; word, that and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word, pro - ceeds from the

lu - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - lu, al - le - lu - lu,
o - pened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - lu, al - le - lu - lu,
mouth . . . of . . . God, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - lu, al - le - lu - lu.

Tune: st. 1, Matt. 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; st. 2, Matt. 7:7; st. 3, Matt. 4:4
Melody: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948
Text st. 1 and music © 1977 Mennonite Music, admin. The Copyright Co.

LAFFERTY
original

Stand

OFFERTORY

Christ is the Same

Refrain

Through - out all of his - to - ry, Christ is the same.

Yes - ter - day, to - day, to - mor - row pro - claim, Be -

fore, be - side, for - ev - er - more: Christ is the same.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

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**

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor and + give us peace
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* #705

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Stewardship

...we offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us

Our Selves...

Ministers...The Members of Zion St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Leader...Nancy Retz

Music...Cindy Hemm Lector...Alice Greimann

Greeter... Fellowship...

Audio/Visual...Scott Conlon and Fred Retz

Our Time...

July 19...58 LSV...13

And Our Possessions...

July 19...\$2,920.00

...signs of your gracious love