

Zion Lutheran Church  
November 19, 2023 10 am  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



Zion's Mission Statement  
*As a body of believers, created by God, redeemed by  
Christ, empowered by the Spirit, we are called to bear  
witness to God's love.*

**Congregation of the Montana Synod, E.L.C.A.**

Glendive, MT 59330  
Website [www.zionlutheran.us](http://www.zionlutheran.us)  
406-377-3369

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Sermon and Liturgy: Norman Unterseher, LPA**

**Reader: Steve Merrill**

**Ushers: Eryck & Mykah Cantrell**

**Deacons: Tracy & Cindy Gabbert, Wyatt Sager**

**Sound System: Sheila Kennedy**

**Acolytes: Teag & Bodie Rieger**

**Chancel Guild: Barb G**

**Musicians: Mary Senvold / Marla McCormick**

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Next Sunday, November 26, 2023

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

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Church office hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-noon. Church office e-mail is  
[churchlady@zionlutheran.us](mailto:churchlady@zionlutheran.us)

**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. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. 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.*

**Announcements:**

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

*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,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**  
**We are infected by sin**  
**that divides your beloved community.**  
**Open our hearts to your coming,**  
**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**  
**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through + Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn:** ELW Hymn #451 We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

**Children's Message-Baptism:** Page 227 in the front of the ELW

**Apostolic 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.**

**Kyrie:** Page 203 in the front of the ELW

**Hymn of Praise:** ELW Hymn # 167 Now the Feast and Celebration

**Prayer of the Day:**

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.**

**Choir:**

**First Reading:** **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18** (page 900 in the Old Testament in the pew Bible)

*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.*

<sup>7</sup>Be 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. <sup>12</sup>At 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." <sup>13</sup>Their 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. <sup>14</sup>The 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. <sup>15</sup>That 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, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. <sup>17</sup>I 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. <sup>18</sup>Neither 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalms 90:1-12**

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

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

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Turn back, O children of earth."  
<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night;**  
<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly like the grass:  
<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**  
<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
we are afraid because of your wrath.  
<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**  
<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.  
<sup>10</sup>**The 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.**  
<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your indignation?  
<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** (page 196 in the New Testament in the pew Bible)

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Abide in me as I abide in you; those who abide in me bear much fruit. Alleluia.** (John 15:4, 5)

The Holy Gospel is from Matthew, the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30** (page 26 in the New Testament in the pew Bible)

*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:] <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then 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.' <sup>21</sup>His 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.' <sup>22</sup>And 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.' <sup>23</sup>His 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.' <sup>24</sup>Then 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; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But 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? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For 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. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message:** Norman Unterseher, LPA

**Hymn of the Day:** ELW Hymn #712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

**Prayers of Intercession:** Our response to Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

**Sharing the Peace:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**  
Share the peace as you feel comfortable.

**Offering Hymn:** ELW Hymn # 674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

**Offering Prayer:**

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. 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.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy:** Page 207 in the front of the ELW

**Words of Institution:**

**The Lord's Prayer:** Page 208 in the front of the ELW

**Invitation to Communion:** Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**Communion Hymn:** ELW Hymn # 471 Let Us Break Bread Together  
ELW Hymn # 479 We Come to the Hungry Feast

**Communion Blessing:**

**Prayer after Communion:**

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.**

**Blessing:**

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. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** ELW Hymn #774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

**Dismissal:**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

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**We encourage you to sign the pew sheets when they are passed to you. The black folder is on the inside aisle. We use them for our record of communion, and numbers are reported the Synod office. They also alert us to visitors and new people attending, and you may use them to leave a message to the pastor.**

Prayers of the People Colossians 4:2

“Continue earnestly in prayer being vigilant in it with Thanksgiving”

Prayers for all impacted by the Coronavirus, and for their caretakers.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Worship

**7:00 p.m. Scouts**

**Monday November 20, 2023**

**9:00 a.m. Quilting**

**5:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes-Dave & Don**

**6:00 p.m. Scouts**

**Tuesday November 21, 2023**

**Wednesday November 22, 2023**

**Print Newsletter**

**10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle**

**No Confirmation through December**

**Thursday November 23, 2023-Thanksgiving Office Closed**

**No Men's Bible Study**

**No Thursday Night Worship**

**Friday November 24, 2023**

**Saturday November 25, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Furniture Room-Closed**

**Sunday November 26, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. Worship**

**7:00 p.m. Scouts**