**cemetery decoration servcie- september 25, 2022**

**zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**PRELUDE**

**BELLS**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples. We give thanks to the Creator for this great gift and recognize our responsibility as treaty people to care for the land and waters that nourish us and give us strength. We also acknowledge that it is our duty to do more to learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, caretakers, and sojourners.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather at this place of worship and cemetery.

Holy ground, a sacred space for all

**We come sharing our joys and happiness**

**We come shouldering of grief, sorrow and memories**

We bring our doubts and questions

And lay everything into the hands of God.

**Our God who was and who is**

**And who always shall be.**

Let us worship and praise God on this day

**GATHERING SONG*All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (ELW 883)**

1 All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;  
come ye before him and rejoice.  
  
2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make.  
We are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.  
  
3 Oh, enter then his gates with praise;  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.  
  
4 For why? The Lord our God is good:  
His mercy is forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.  
  
5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,  
from us and from the angel host  
be praise and glory evermore.

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

Loving God, the generations rise and fall before you. You are the strength of those who labour and live; you are the rest of blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in the faith, all who have peacefully died, and those most dear to us who rest in peace in you. To your name with the church on earth and the church in heaven, we ascribe all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:8-13**

A reading from Jeremiah.

8See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  among them the blind and the lame,  those with child and those in labor, together;  a great company, they shall return here.  
 9With weeping they shall come,  and with consolations I will lead them back,  
 I will let them walk by brooks of water,  in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  for I have become a father to Israel,  and Ephraim is my firstborn.  
 10Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
 say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."  
 11For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  and over the young of the flock and the herd;  their life shall become like a watered garden,  and they shall never languish again.  
 13Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  and the young men and the old shall be merry.  I will turn their mourning into joy,  I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 23*The Lord's My Shepherd* (ELW 778)**

1 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.  
He leadeth me, he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.  
  
2 My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake;  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.  
  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.  
  
4 My table thou hast richly spread  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.  
  
5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling-place shall be;  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

**SECOND READING: Romans 6:3-9**

A reading from Romans.

3Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.  
5For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7For whoever has died is freed from sin. 8But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: John 14:1-6, 25-27**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 25I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

*The assembly is seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*When Peace like a River*  (ELW 785)**

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.  
  
Refrain  
It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.  
  
2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain  
  
3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain  
  
4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. Refrain

**CREED (ELW p. 217)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection

may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith,

that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN**- **Just As I Am, without One Plea (ELW 592)**

1 Just as I am, without one plea,

but that thy blood was shed for me,

and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about

with many a conflict, many a doubt,

fightings and fears within, without,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,

wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;

because thy promise I believe,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

4 Just as I am; thy love unknown

has broken ev'ry barrier down;

now to be thine, yea, thine alone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs.

Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need;

through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING (ELW p. 221)**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW 618)**

1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.  
  
2 Open now the crystal fountain  
where the healing waters flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
shield me with your mighty arm,  
shield me with your mighty arm.  
  
3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.

*(At the conclusion of our sending hymn, all are invited to process to the cemetery for the conclusion of the service. Those who are unable to go to the cemetery are invited to remain in the sanctuary in prayer and reflection.)*

**Commeration of the Faithful departed**

Hear the words as written in the letter of Paul to the Hebrews: Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight ad he sin that hangs so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfector of our faith, who for the sake of our joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus by your death you took away the sting of death. Strengthen us to follow you in faith where you have led the way that we may live in you, the author and giver of life, in all honour and glory now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord God, you have the power over life and death

**You are the Lord of the spirits and of all flesh.**

You created humankind and call your saints to you so that they may find rest.

**Your presence brings us peace and comfort in our times of grief and sadness.**

We remember our dead, the members and friends of Zion who have passed away and are buried in this cemetery. Before you we remember the dead who have passed away since last September and are buried here at Zion

Norma Hammer

Kenneth Kneisel

Let them rest in peace, Awaken them on your promised day adm grant to them an inheritance with all your saints in glory.

*(Time of silence and reflection)*

We thank you God for all of the blessings you have granted through your beloved children of God

**For the blessings in body and soul, in times of trouble, sadness, and distress, in times of joy and happiness.**

For the promise of the Gospel that we have shared.

**Receive them for the grace that accompanied them on their earthly journey.**

Make the memory of them a blessing to us and comfort to those who mourn their deaths.

**Merciful God, prepare us at all times to meet a blessed end.**

Remove us when our last hour comes of all our despair, and strengthen our faith in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the life everlasting**.**

**Help us we pray that in the midst of things we do not understand, that we too will one day join your company of saints and stand together with the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,. Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**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.**

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)**

Renewed by the promise that the power of God’s love we shall one day be brought together in the new life of resurrection, we go forth in peace. Amen. **Thanks be to God.**