**15th sunday after pentecost- september 10, 2023**

**zion, philipsburg- setting 10**

**GATHERING**

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

**Welcome!**

**There are many places you could be this morning,**

**but you have chosen to be here:**where we learn how to live in God's Kingdom. **Welcome to this place—full of music, of words, of prayer—**

**yet also filled with danger:**where we encounter a Wisdom we cannot always understand. **Welcome to God's House, the most dangerous place in town:**where we talk about and with God,

and are reduced to silence so we may hear the call to discipleship.

 ~ written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this 15th Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 2023. Today we celebrate welcoming one another and just being together, and not taking ourselves to seriously in wearing our favourite t-shirts. My t-shirt was a gift and every time I wear it, I smile. We are having a corn roast and bbq after the service, please stay for some lunch and fellowship!

We are using a new setting today- it is setting 10, it will be familiar with many favourite hymns as the liturgy.

Announcements for this week…..

* Bible Study resumes at Trinity New Hamburg on Tuesday morning at 10:30. Zion members are welcome to attend. This is a wonderful time of learning about our upcoming gospel for the week and fellowship.
* Christmas Bazaar meeting on Thursday Sept 14 at 1:00. If you would like to help organize this worthwhile and much-loved event, please join us.
* Next weekend is our history and connections weekend here at Zion as part of our 180th anniversary. Join us Sat from 1-4 as folks gather to chat about the history and memories of Philipsburg and Zion. On Sunday all are invited to ur Connections service. If you were married, baptized, or confirmed here at Zion we invite to come and reminisce and look through our history books.

All are welcome at the table!

**GATHERING SONG*Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (ELW 656)**

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

**GREETING (ELW p. 203)**

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 (ELW p. 203)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 205)**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

A reading from Ezekiel.

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God’s warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

7So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. 9But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.
 10Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” 11Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40**

 33Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.
 34**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;** **I shall keep it with all my heart.**
 35Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.
 36**Incline my heart to your decrees** **and not to unjust gain.**
 37Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.
 38**Fulfill your promise to your servant,** **which is for those who fear you.**
 39Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.
 40**Behold, I long for your commandments;** **by your righteousness enliven me.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14**

A reading from Romans.

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

8Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

 11Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.**

**Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.**

**Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 206)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*God, When Human Bonds Are Broken* (ELW 603)**

1 God, when human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.

2 Through that stillness, with your Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess.

3 You in us are bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living;
set us free and grant us peace.

4 Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.

5 Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God, encourage and renew!

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. *A brief silence.*

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth’s thriving. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick *especially* Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Edna, Felix, Gary, Erin, Zoli, Donna, John C, Debbie G, Deb S, Beatty, Nick, as well as our members in Long Term Care, Robert, Evelyn and Rob, and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts. (good pause). Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 206)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 885)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 206)**

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.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 207)**

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.

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:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 207)**

**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.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 207)**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

 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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)**

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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 208)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;**

**you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;**

**you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;**

**eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS- 836, 864**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food,

send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

The God of glory, ☩ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*We Are Marching in the Light: Siyahamba* (ELW 866)**

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching--oo--
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching--oo--
we are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib:
We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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