**14th sunday after pentecost- september 3, 2023**

**zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

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

**Announcments and welcome-**

Good morning and welcome to worship on this 14th Sunday after Pentecost, September 3, 2023. Can you believe that it is already September!

Announcements – Next Sunday we celebrate a return to our normal schedule, so we are calling it Welcome Back to Zion! Join us for worship, you are invited to wear your funny t-shirt or favourite t-shirt to worship. A corn roast and bbq will take place after church, please bring a salad or dessert to share.

Our Christmas in the Country Bazaar is fast approaching. Council is once again looking for volunteers to help plan this event. A planning meeting will be held Sept 14 @ 1:00 at the church. Please let Pastor Leanne know if you are interested

Sept 16- History Day 1-4- come and share your pictures and memories of Zion and the Philipsburg area. Refreshments will be served.

September 17 is our Connections Service at 10:30. Were you baptized, married or confirmed at Zion? Did you attend Zion while visiting relatives in the summer months? All are welcome to attend this service of Holy Communion. Our history books and photo albums will be available to look at.

Anything else?

**GATHERING SONG*For the Beauty of the Earth* (ELW 879)**

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: Refrain

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: Refrain

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: Refrain

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: Refrain

**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.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 213)**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 213)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

A reading from Jeremiah.

*Jeremiah’s delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God’s hand upon him and God’s seeming unfaithfulness. God’s tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, “I am with you.”*

 15O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
 In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.
 16Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy
  and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.
 17I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;
 under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.
 18Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
 Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

 19Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.
 20And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. 21I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
  and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8**

 1Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;
  I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
 2**Test me, O Lord, and try me;** **examine my heart| and my mind.**
 3For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.
 4**I have not sat with the worthless,** **nor do I consort with the deceitful.**
 5I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.
 6**I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,**
  **that I may go in procession round your altar,**
 7singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
 8**Lord, I love the house in which you dwell** **and the place where your glory abides.**

**hymn-*Let Streams of Living Justice* (ELW 710)**

1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.

2 For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.

3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way--the path untried;
your truth--the heart of stranger;
your life--the Crucified.

**SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

A reading from Romans.

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

9Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
 14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” 21Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?** **Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

21From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” 23But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”
 24Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?
 27“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song:* (ELW 808)**

1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

**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.**

**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.*

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. We pray for all who have been affected by Hurricane Idalia and the continuing wildfires throughout Canada. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of hate. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. We especially remember Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Edna, Felix, Gary, Erin, Zoli, Donna, John C, Debbie G, Deb S, 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)Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor *especially Paul Wegford*. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. 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. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERtory: LET THE VINEYARDS 182**

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 219)**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**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.**

**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*God's Work, Our Hands* (ACS 1000)**

1 God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

3 God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

4 God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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