**21st sunday after pentecost- october 22, 2023**

**zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Good morning and welcome to worship on this 21st Sunday after Pentecost. Fall is upon us!

Thank you to all who donated and all who came out last week to help sort and organize the 621 items of clothing for the Erb St. Shelter. It is on these Action Sundays where the gospel comes to life, where instead of sitting in the pew and listening to the gospel, you are the gospel, you are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world.

Today immediately after the service we will have our defibrillator retraining. It is important that folks remain and find out what to do in case of a health emergency here at Zion.

Next weekend is a busy one….Arbour Day and the Philipsburg Grand Ole Opry take place on Saturday, and we celebrate the baptism of Oakland on Sunday morning. A baptism is as much for the congregation as it is for the child. We as a community welcome Oakland into the family of God and into the family of Zion through baptism.

**GATHERING SONG*What Is This Place* (ELW 524)**

1 What is this place where we are meeting?  
Only a house, the earth its floor.  
Walls and a roof sheltering people,  
windows for light, an open door.  
Yet it becomes a body that lives  
when we are gathered here,  
and know our God is near.  
  
2 Words from afar, stars that are falling,  
sparks that are sown in us like seed:  
names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders  
sent from the past are all we need.  
We in this place remember and speak  
again what we have heard:  
God's free redeeming word.  
  
3 And we accept bread at this table,  
broken and shared, a living sign.  
Here in this world, dying and living,  
we are each other's bread and wine.  
This is the place where we can receive  
what we need to increase:  
our justice and God's peace.

**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)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 213)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel’s exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*

1Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped  
 to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes,  
 to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed:  
 2I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,

3I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places,so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.  
 4For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name,  
 I surname you, though you do not know me.  
 5I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, 6so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. 7I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 96:1-13**

1Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
 2**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;** **proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**  
 3Declare God’s glory among the nations and God’s wonders among all peoples.  
 4**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,** **more to be feared than all gods.**  
 5As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.  
 6**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;** **power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**  
 7Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.  
 8**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;** **bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**  
 9Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.  
10**Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king!** **The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**  
 11Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.  
 12**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,**  
  **for you come to judge the earth.**  
 13You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples **|** with your truth.

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

1Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
  To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
  Grace to you and peace.  
  
 2We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. 6And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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 22:15-22**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

15Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. 20Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” 21They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” 22When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*God of Grace and God of Glory* (ELW 705)**

1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your pow'r;  
crown your ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.  
  
2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days,  
  
3 Cure your children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,  
let we miss your kingdom's goal.  
4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of our elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering *especially* Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Edna, Felix, Gary, John C, Erin, Elizabeth, Zoli, Donna, Beatty, Nick, Alea, our members in long term care Robert, Evelyn and Rob and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts.. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**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.**

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

Holy God, mighty Fortress, loving Redeemer, steadfast Comforter, as vegetation matures in forests and fields, your living Word undergirds all that lives. We praise your eternal Word.

In the words of the scriptures you offer us Christ: our refuge, our savior, our friend, accompanying us throughout our years and renewing us in love. We praise Jesus, your Word.

We pray for power from your abiding Spirit. Strengthen us to stand firm in faith, in devotion to your Word, and in service to others. We pray for the Spirit of your Word.

To you be honor and praise and glory, today and forever. Amen.

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**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*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (ELW 834)**

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!  
  
2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.  
  
3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.  
  
4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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