

WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 18, 2025

Zion's worship services are live-streamed and archived on YouTube. While the focus is always on the worship leaders and the sanctuary at large, your voice and image may be included as part of the recording. If you do not wish to appear on film, please sit in, or under, the balcony and ask an usher for communion to be brought to your seat. If you have any other questions, please speak with Pastor Caitlin. Thank you for your understanding and support in spreading the Gospel message!

Pastor Caitlin M. Kurtz
Every Week at Zions: @ 10:30 Worship, 9:15 Sunday School
Wednesday night activities 5:30 meal, 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible study

**(Congregation please stand as able)*

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

***GATHERING HYMN: WOV 750 Oh, Praise the Gracious Power**

You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.

1 Oh, praise the gra - cious power that tum - bles walls of fear
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore

and gath - ers in one house of faith all stran - gers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no long - er bled by war:

Refrain
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6 Oh, praise the power, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified. <i>Refrain</i> | 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the Gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|--|

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!.

P: In the name of the One who was, who is, and who is to come. C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live in the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, C: make us one as you are one.

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. C: Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

MEN Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

WOMEN Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

MEN Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion:

MEN Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

WOMEN For the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18 (*pg. 895 in pew Bible*)

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, ‘Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?’ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

After the Reading: Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 148 (*pg. 508 in your pew Bible, next*) (*read responsively*)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Congregation: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

C: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

L: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

C: He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

L: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

C: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

C: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

C: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

L: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

C: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6 (pg. 1007 in pew Bible)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

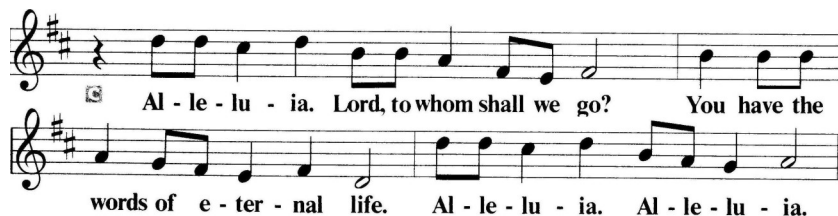
After the reading: **Congregation:** Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON as the children come forward, please join in singing:

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia! Praise ye the Lord! (2x)

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia! (3x) Praise ye the Lord!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL:** John 13:31-35 (pg. 877 in pew Bible)

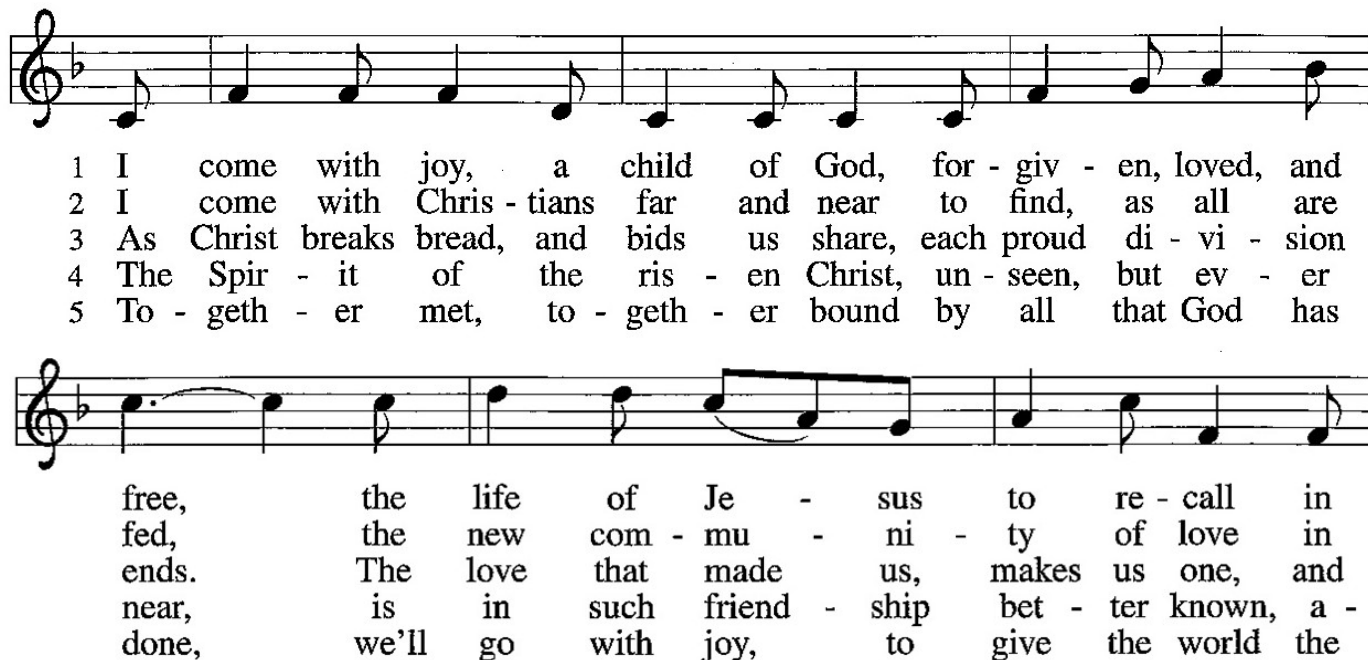
Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 13th Chapter. **Congregation:** Glory to you, O Lord.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

After the reading: P: The Gospel of our Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 482 *I Come with Joy*





love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company DOVE OF PEACE 86 86 6

OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS

***NICENE CREED**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us profess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(after hearing, "Lord in your mercy," respond: **Hear our Prayer**)

(after hearing the final prayer petition, "We commend these and all our prayer to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior." respond: **Amen**)

***SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all. C: And also with you.

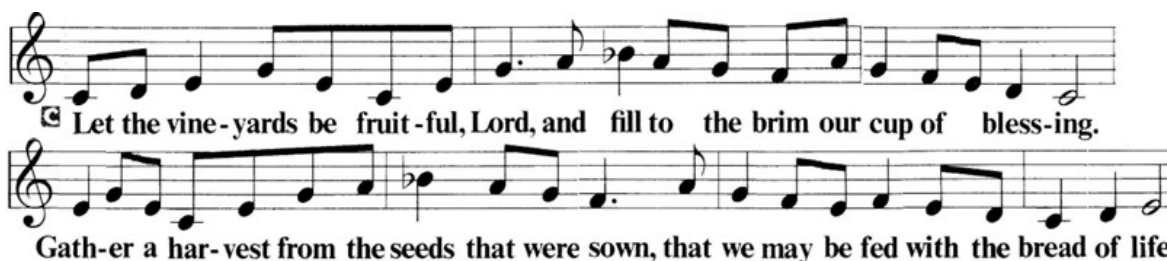
CHOIR ANTHEM

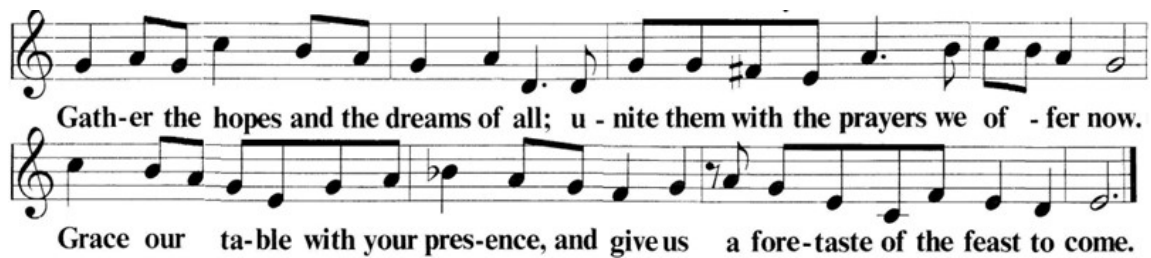
OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: <http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/>, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, our regular electronic offering service, offering one-time and regular options.



***OFFERTORY HYMN**





***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION & SENDING**

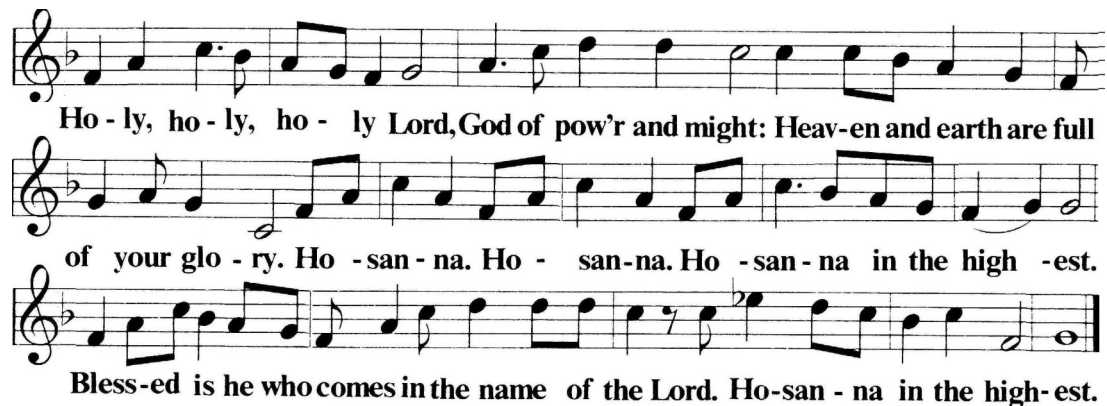
*P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light. **C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER**

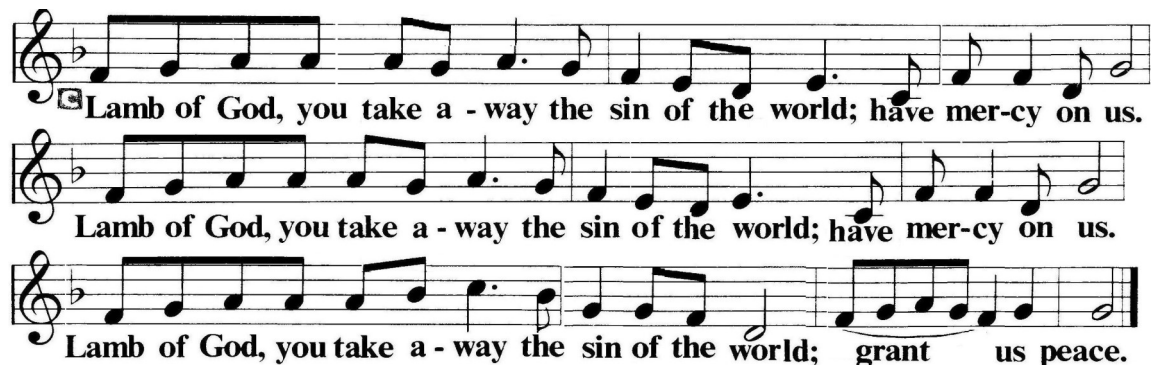
P: We pray as Jesus taught us:

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 THE LORD'S TABLE**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD



At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that accommodation, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

*Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ's spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.*

"Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen."

COMMUNION HYMNS: #666 *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

(blue book)

#748 *Bind Us Together*

#701 *What Feast of Love*

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **C: Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: The God of all grace bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: ELW 546 To Be Your Presence**

As the cross is processed to the rear of the sanctuary as we sing, you are invited to turn towards it, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.

1 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas-sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel-ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro-ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the

ev - er near,
right up - hold,
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © 2000, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc. ENGELBERG 10 10 10 and alleluia

***DISMISSAL**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshipping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Joan Gerhart, Bob, Karen, Jessica, Nicole, De Mohn, Jan, hurricane and fire victims and all victims of violence.

Today in worship we will bless and send forth quilts for Zion's Preschool students who are headed to kindergarten! We hope these blankets will be tangible signs of God's presence and love as they enter a new part of their journey, and we are so grateful to all the quilters who shared their time and talent to create these works of art!

This Week at Zions:

May 19, Monday @ 6:30 pm Church Council meeting

May 21, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

May 21, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship

Next Week at Zions:

May 28, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

THIS WEDNESDAY, May 21, will be the last community meal, Rejoicing Spirits worship service, and Wednesday night Bible study for this school year. If you haven't yet checked out these ministries, it's a great time to try! For the meal, Zion's will provide pulled pork and pulled chicken, and everyone is invited to bring a dessert or side dish. Meal at 5:30 PM, Rejoicing Spirits at 6:15 PM, Bible study at 6:15 PM.

June 1 is Graduate Sunday! On this day we recognize, and ask God's blessing upon those who are graduating from high school. Graduates are asked to send a picture and short blurb about what's next to Pastor Caitlin by Sunday, May 25. Thank you!

June 1 - Hobby/Talent Show: Zion's will bring back their hobby/talent show on June 1, immediately following worship. A light lunch will be provided and we are asking attendees to bring a side dish or dessert. You are invited to perform on stage, display a hobby, or just come out to have a good time. Any questions, see Sharon Northridge. Please sign up on the large bulletin board! Hope to see you there!

Please be in prayer for our Lower Susquehanna Synod, as we elect a new Bishop June 5-7 during Synod Assembly. Bishop Jim Dunlop is retiring after twelve years; whomever we elect at Synod Assembly will serve as our bishop for the next six years. Please also keep Noel Strattan, Michele McQuaide and Pastor Caitlin in your prayers as they serve as our voting members to this assembly. We pray that God would make clear the gifts of each candidate for Bishop, and who would best serve us in this time and place.

June 1, Free movie, *Honor Begins At Home - Courageous*, sponsored by Thrivent at the Allen Theatre in Annville at 2:00 pm.

On Sunday June 8 we celebrate Pentecost and Confirmation! As we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we also celebrate and ask God's blessing upon Gracie Bucks, Levi Bucks, Daryl Root, and Derek Wolfe, who will be affirming their baptism in the rite of Confirmation. The congregation is invited to wear red--symbolic of the Holy Spirit--and sign up for the luncheon after worship. A freewill contribution for lunch will be received, and all are welcome!

Zion's Worship and Music Team wants to hear from you! They are collecting feedback from Lent and Easter worship opportunities, and seeking camp song and hymn requests for worship this summer. Please use the link in your weekly email, or this QR code to submit feedback and requests. Camp songs for Camp Sunday (August 10) and other hymn requests can also be submitted on a piece of paper in the offering plate.



Youth Service Camp coming to Zion's this summer! Youth who have completed 6th through 12th grade are invited to participate in a week of service, learning (and fun) June 16 to 20, based at Zion's. At the end of the week, participants will receive money to use for a service project or to contribute to a non-profit of their choice (with thanks to the Touching Tomorrow Endowment!) More info and registration links on our website.

Help needed for Youth Service Camp! Of course, to make this great week of service learning possible, we need adult help! If you're able to provide a meal for our time together, donate a Thrivent Action Team card, help transport youth whose parents are working, or provide transportation for one of our afternoon activities *please let Pastor Caitlin know*. Thank you!

The **large utensil drawers** in the church kitchen have been cleaned out of excess utensils and knives. Feel free to stop in the kitchen after worship and help yourself to the items in the dish pans on the counter.

Serving at Zion's	Today	Next Sunday
Lector	Linda Toth	Linda Wenrich
Prayer	Izaak McQuaide	John Mohn
Children's sermon	Elaine Ludwig	Noel Strattan
Comm. Assts.	Linda Wenrich, Judy Merkel	Ed & Elaine Ludwig
Greeter		
Acolyte	Gracie Bucks	Madelyn Rittle
Crucifer	Madison Hess	MacKenzie Hess
Altar Guild	Merkel family	Bucks family
Elevette	Noel Strattan	Kadance Kugler
Ushers	Georgetta Wolfe, Jim Fowler	Georgetta Wolfe, Rick Herr

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin
 SOUND: Houser family
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 zions@comcast.net

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