

Zion Lutheran Church



Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

3644 Bolivar Ave, North Highlands CA 95660

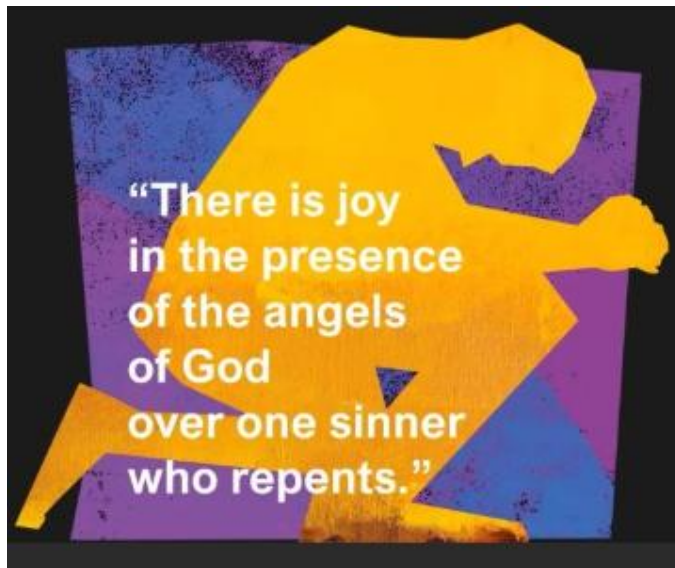
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Pastor - Philip Tesch

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September 14, 2025



Zion Lutheran Church

Sundays with Zion

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Bible Hour 11:00 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 14, 2025

Please observe a few minutes of quiet time as you prepare for worship. We invite you to **pray** and read the **Scriptures** for the day.

WE ARE DELIGHTED AND BLESSED *to have you worship with us today!*

ALL WORSHIPERS *are asked to please fill out the information sheet in the bulletin. Before we begin, you are also invited to pray and to read the Scripture for today's worship.*

WE LOVE OUR KIDS ... *We love to have them in the service with us, but if your child needs a break, we do have a "cry room" in the entry way of the church.*

A PRAYER AS WE GATHER

O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as You gather us together to worship You in spirit and in truth, prepare us to receive the preaching of Your Word and all Your life-giving gifts such that we would repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Rescuer, and grow in caring service for all. Hear us for His sake. Amen.

Today's Theme

The charge against Jesus was always the same—He keeps the wrong company. But Jesus has come for sinners, and if you are not a sinner, He does not have anything for you. To emphasize why He has come, our Lord tells the stories of ninety-nine sheep left behind to find one who is lost and a woman who rejoices over finding one lost coin. You are that lost sheep and lost coin for whom Christ has come and in whom heaven rejoices. Jesus has come for you and for you He has offered Himself upon the cross and been laid in the tomb. This is the heavenly joy of the angels above, and it is our earthly joy as well. Christ came for us!

Stand

God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
 That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 To You, O blessèd Trinity,
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93
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The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:18

Service of the Word

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure.
Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You,
rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

You Alone Have Saved Me

My heart sings a new song.
Your death testifies, my flesh has died.
Baptized in Your name, I'm given new life.
You alone have saved me.

Chorus

You alone have saved me.
You alone have claimed me.
The water and Word have washed me clean.
You alone have saved me.

You alone have saved me.

Bridge

Through Your death, there is new life.
My sin can stand no more.
The power that raised You from the grave
Demands my life be Yours. *Repeat*

Chorus

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–24

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Timothy 1:5–17

⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

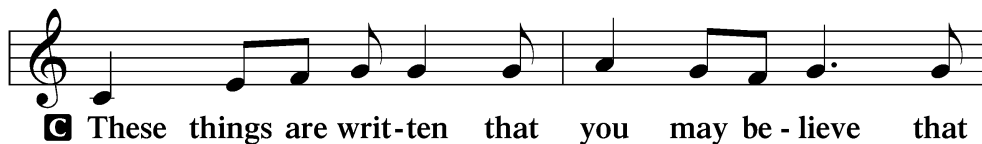
¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse





Luke 15:1-10

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children are invited to the front for a brief teaching especially for them.

Stand

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

LSB 709



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Philip Tesch

Response to the Word

Stand

Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel (Silence for reflection on our need for forgiveness)

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority (*John 20:22-23; 1 Corinthians 4:1*), I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Please leave a yellow information sheet for your household in the plate that is passed with any offerings you may have as an act of worship in response to Christ's abundant kindness toward us.

(You can also click on the Online Giving button at ZionLutheranNH.org to set up one-time or recurring payments when you are at home or even now in worship, which may take you only 2 minutes)

His Mercy Is More

Chorus

Praise the Lord

His mercy is more

Stronger than darkness, new every morn

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What love could remember no wrongs we have done

Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam

What father, so tender, is calling us home

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more *Chorus x2*

What riches of kindness he lavished on us

His blood was the payment, his life was the cost

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more *Chorus x3*

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

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Stand

Prayers of the People

- L** Let us pray to the Lord, who in Christ will hear our prayers and, in His time, turn our mourning into dancing.

Heavenly Father, heaven rejoices when a sinner repents. Guard us against self-righteousness that sees no need to hear of Christ and His redemption, and preserve us in Your Word and grace, that as Your people we might always be about the proclamation of repentance and the forgiveness of sins for the sake of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- L** Almighty God, You call pastors and set them to the task of shepherding Your people. Bless them in their work of providing Your gifts to those You have gathered and as they seek those who have wandered away. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- L** O Lord, look with favor on the households of this congregation, and grant that all may live in love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

King of the ages, immortal and invisible, the only God, look in kindness upon all entrusted with public office in our land, and grant them wisdom and courage to serve our nation according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- L** Lord God, You promise to shepherd Your sheep for the sake of Jesus. According to Your Word, seek the lost, bring back the stray, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. Have mercy upon all who look to You for deliverance. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- L** God of the ages, in the fullness of time Your Son became flesh, and He received sinners and ate with them on His way to the cross. Bless all those He feeds today with His own holy body and blood. Guard them from impenitence and resistance to Your promises, and with forgiveness grant them life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L We recall with thanksgiving, O Lord, those who served You in days past and now rest from their labors, and we pray that You would keep us in fellowship with all Your saints. In every holy communion, give us grace to sustain us through the changes and chances of this mortal life, and keep us to that day when Christ shall call us unto Himself and we shall know Him face to face in the marriage supper of the Lamb that knows no end. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Lord, may your blessing be upon our Call Committee as they seek your wisdom and guidance in their work of looking at possible candidates to call and serve as Zion's next Pastor. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L We entrust all these petitions to Your care, loving Father, confident in Your great mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is worshiped together with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C **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.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:23-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

O Worship the Risen Christ

What name is the praise of the heavens above
That enraptures the wonder of angels?
Whose glory outshines all the burning of suns
And shall blaze all the brighter through ages?

Chorus

O praise the One, the Risen Christ
The name of names, the Lord of Life
Let songs of joy now fill the skies
He lives, He lives, O worship the Risen Christ

What morning has known such a glorious light
And what hour beheld such a promise
When He who was slain dawned the end of all night
When He rose to crush death and our darkness

Chorus

From heaven to earth, for a people He came
From the earth bore our sin unto Calv'ry
From Calv'ry He sank to the depths of the grave
From the grave unto infinite glory

Chorus

What riches of hope, now what treasures are mine
What a blessed foretaste of redemption
What oceans of happiness when we meet Christ
And we're swept into His resurrection

O praise the One, the Risen Christ
The name of names, the Lord of Life
Let songs of joy now fill the skies
He lives, He lives
He lives, He lives
He lives, He lives, O worship the Risen Christ

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◆ The **VISION** of Zion Lutheran Church ◆

In response to God's amazing grace and love
Zion Lutheran Church is a place of refuge
where children, youth and adults are:

GROUNDED in God's unchanging Word,

REACHING OUT with the Good News of
Jesus Christ locally and globally,

ACCEPTING others in the same loving way
God has accepted us,

CHANGING into committed Christ followers, and

EMPOWERED to be Christ's hands and feet
joyfully serving others.

Our Core Values

We Believe:

- ◆ We are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ. (*Eph. 2: 8-9; Rom. 3:22-24; Titus 3:4-7*)
- ◆ Jesus is the Way, the Truth & the Life! No one comes to the Father except through Him! (*John 14:6; Acts 4:12*)
- ◆ Scripture is the Word of God. It is without error and our only source for life and faith! (*2 Tim. 3:16; John 20:31; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)
- ◆ Baptism & the Lord's Supper are the means by which God touches our lives with His grace. (*Rom 6:1-7; 1 Peter 3:21; Matt 26:26-28; 1 Cor 11:23-26*)
- ◆ God has chosen us to proclaim the Gospel to our community and world. (*Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15*)
- ◆ In the power of God working through the Holy Spirit & Prayer. (*John 14:26; Acts 4:31; Mark 11:24; Phil 4:6-7*)
- ◆ We desire to remain a loving (*1Cor 13; 1John 4:7-11*), caring family of God.
- ◆ We cherish our Lutheran heritage.