

September 27, 2026  
Polka Service



# Zion Lutheran Church

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May God bless your worship with us this day. A new day of salvation!



**Welcome!** We worship the Triune God: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. We are pleased you are here to worship with us today. Make yourself at home; you are among the family of Christ. If you are visiting, please do introduce yourself to others and to our Pastor. Please sign our Guest Book in the narthex so we can thank you for your visit...and come soon to see us again!

**To Stand or Sit:** There are certain parts of the service where you will be invited to stand. Sometimes, “wrestling” with kids, or a personal health condition makes standing uncomfortable...please know: It is okay to stand or sit.

# Confession and Absolution

## Church In The Wildwood

There's a church in the valley by the wildwood  
No lovelier spot in the dale  
No place is so dear to my childhood  
As the little brown church in the vale.

### Chorus:

(Oh come come come come)  
Come to the church in the wildwood  
Oh come to the church in the vale.  
No spot is so dear to my childhood  
As the little brown church in the vale.

How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning  
To list'n to the clear ringing bell  
Its tones so sweetly are calling  
Oh come to the church in the vale. **(Chorus)**

There close by the church in the valley  
Lies one that I loved so well.  
She sleeps sweetly sleep 'neath the willow  
Disturb not her rest in the vale. **(Chorus)**

There close by the side of that loved one  
'Neath the tree where the wild flowers bloom  
When farewell hymns shall be chanted  
I shall rest by her side in the tomb. **(Chorus)**

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

C **Amen.**

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.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- 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, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

**Introit** (*read responsively by half-verses*)

*Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6*

The LORD lifts up the humble;  
**he casts the wicked to the ground.**  
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
**for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**  
The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
**he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**  
He heals the brokenhearted  
**and binds up their wounds.**  
He determines the number of the stars;  
**he gives to all of them their names.**  
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
**his understanding is beyond measure.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The LORD lifts up the humble;  
**he casts the wicked to the ground.**

**Kyrie**

*LSB 152*

- A In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C **Amen.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB 154*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**
- P Let us pray.  
Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Wings of a Dove**

**Chorus:**

On the wings of a snow white dove  
He sends His pure sweet love  
A sign from above, on the wings of a dove

When troubles surround us, when evils come  
The body grows weak, the spirit grows numb  
When these things beset us, He doesn't forget us  
He sends down His love, On the wings of a dove. **(Chorus)**

When Noah had drifted, on the flood many days  
He searched for land in various ways.  
Troubles, he had some, but wasn't forgotten  
He sent him His love on the wings of a dove. **(Chorus)**

## Old Testament Reading

*Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? <sup>3</sup>As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

<sup>25</sup>“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup>When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup>Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

<sup>30</sup>“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18*

<sup>1</sup>If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or questioning, <sup>15</sup>that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Holy Gospel** (*this is the basis of today's sermon*)

*Matthew 21:23–32*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

C **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

#### **Nearer My God To Thee**

Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee.  
Even though it be a cross, that raiseth me.  
Still all my song shall be  
Nearer my God to Thee.  
Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee.

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down.  
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone.  
Yet in my dreams I'd be  
Nearer my God to Thee.  
Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee.

There let the way appear, steps unto Heav'n.  
All that Thou sendest me, in mercy given.  
Angels to beckon me  
Nearer my God to Thee.  
Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee.

## Children's Message

### Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

#### Chorus:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My Word to them. Whom shall I send? **(Chorus)**

## Sermon "A Tale of Two Sons" (Matthew 21:23-32)

## Offering

### Chapel in the Valley

We are brothers, we stand together,  
Lord, won't you come and be with us?  
On the mountain and in the valleys,  
We praise you, Lord, for all to see.

#### Chorus:

Oh la, oh lee oh, we sing and praise your holy name  
Oh la, oh lee oh, forgive our sins, forget our blame.  
Oh la, oh lee oh as we worship you and pray.  
Please take our troubles for today,  
Oh la oh lee oh as we worship you and pray.

You have called us to be your people  
Lord won't you come be with us  
see standing around Your altar  
Won't you come and set us free. **(Chorus)**

*Stand*

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

*Stand*

### **Luther's Morning Prayer**

**P Let us pray.  
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept  
me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also  
from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I  
commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that  
the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**C Amen.**

### **Benediction**

*LSB 166*

**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.**

## How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

### Chorus:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. **(Chorus)**

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on that cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin **(Chorus)**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!" **(Chorus)**

## Acknowledgments

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