

August 23, 2026
Blended Service

Zion Lutheran Church

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Little Falls, MN 56345

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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.

TIME OF LEARNING: Review Songs

Welcome

Opening Song: Come, Now Is the Time to Worship

Chorus: Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God. One day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now.

Chorus

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives, willingly our knees will bow.

With all our heart, soul, mind and strength, we gladly choose You now.

Chorus

Come, just as you are, come.

(Stand)

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution:

- P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- C: **Who made heaven and earth**
- P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
(please ponder your sins)
- 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: Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen**

Introit (*read responsively by half-verses*)

Psalm 2:6–7; 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18

But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!
As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.
I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”
Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

**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.**

But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

(sit)

SONG: "He Is Lord"

He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and He is Lord
Every knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

Repeat

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading *(this is the basis of today's sermon)*

Isaiah 51:1–6

- ¹"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.
³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴"Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;

the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 11:33—12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand for the Alleluia and Gospel reading)

Song: "Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! Sing for joy!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! Sing for Joy!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song: "The Apostles Creed"

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.

I believe He was born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under
Pontius Pilate. He was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again
from the dead, ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right
hand of God. From thence He shall 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, and the resurrection of the body and
the life everlasting. Amen!

(sit)

Children's Message

Song: "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.
Repeat

SERMON "A Look Back, A Look Forward" (Isaiah 51:1-6)

Offering

Ushers bring Offering to the Altar

(Stand)

Offering Response Song: "I Love You, Lord"

I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship You
O my soul rejoice.
Take joy my King in what You hear, may it be a
Sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.
Repeat

Prayer of the Church

P: In our prayers today....

Song: "Whisper A Prayer"

Whisper a pray'r in the morning, Whisper a pray'r at noon;
Whisper a pray'r in the evening, He'll keep your heart in tune.
God answers pray'r in the morning, God answers pray'r at noon;
God answers pray'r in the evening, He'll keep your heart in tune.

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

Song: "Hallowed Be Thy Name"

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done; Hallowed be Thy name.

As in heaven, so on the earth. Hallowed be Thy name. Give us this day our daily bread. Hallowed be Thy name.

And forgive us all our debts; Hallowed be Thy name. Just as we forgive our debtors. Hallowed be Thy name.

Lead us not into temptation; Hallowed be Thy name. But deliver us from evil. Hallowed be Thy name.

Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory; Hallowed be Thy name. Forever and forever more. Hallowed be Thy name.

Amen, it shall be so. Hallowed be Thy name. Amen, amen, it shall be so. Hallowed be Thy name. Hallowed be Thy name.

Service of the Sacrament

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Sit

Here at Zion Lutheran, we believe that Christ's true body and blood are received by everyone in the Lord's Supper (Real Presence). All who participate here believe the same Biblical truths and we practice "Closed Communion." (Acts 2:42, 1 Cor 1:10, 10:16-18, 11:26-29)

Visitors, please consult with Pastor Johnson or the Elder before receiving the Lord's Supper.

Only communicant members of Zion or one of our sister LCMS churches are invited to receive the Communion elements. If you do not meet this criterion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing by our pastor. Simply fold your hands across your chest when the bread and the wine are distributed, and our pastor will speak a blessing over you. All children are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Our Communion practices are to have four adults (with children standing in front of the adults) on each side of area in front of the chancel (Altar area) as our Pastor and Elder are serving the elements. The Ushers are instructed to limit the communicants to four. Inform the Usher if you desire NOT to be separated from someone and he'll adjust the groupings of four accordingly.

Distribution

First Communion Song:

Communion Song

Words by Luke 22: 19-20 by Barry McGuire Music By Barry McGuire

VERSE

Gmaj7 A/G Dmaj7 G D Em F#m G A7 *Last time to Coda*

♩=64

1. Take this bread I give to you, and as you do, re - mem - ber
2. Take this cup I fill for you, and as you do, re - mem - ber
3. Take this love I've giv - en you, and as you do, re - mem - ber

CHORUS 1 & 2

D Bm F#m/A G D

Me. This bread is My bod-y bro-ken just for you.
Me. This cup is the new cov'-nant I'm mak in' with you.

G D Em A G A7 D

Take it, (take it) eat it, (eat it) each time you do; Re - mem - ber Me, re -
Take it, (take it) drink it, (drink it) each time you do; Re - mem - ber Me, re -

G A7 D D Coda G A7 D G A7 D

ENDING

- mem - ber Me. Me, re - mem - ber Me, re - mem - ber Me.
- mem - ber Me.

August 23, 2026

Blended Service

Second Communion Song:

Lamb Of God

Words and Music by
Twila Paris

VERSE

$\text{♩} = 52$ C G C G/B Am Fmaj7 C/E



Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide; But You have sent Him from Your
Your gift of) love they cru - ci - fied; They laughed and scorned Him as He
I was so) lost I should have died; But You have brought me to Your

(1)

4 Gsus G G/F Am Fmaj7 C/E Am Fmaj7 C/G Gsus C G F



side, to walk up - on this guilt - y sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.
died. The hum - ble King they named a fraud, and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of
side to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of

CHORUS

(1) | 2, 3

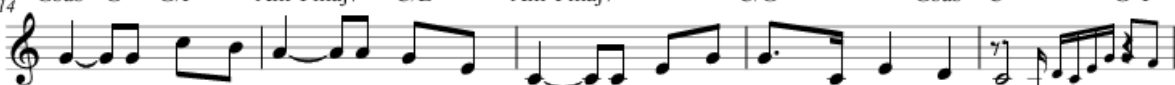
9 C G C $\text{Am F G/F C/E C G/B}$ Am Fmaj7 C/E



Your gift of God. Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God. I love the ho - ly Lamb of

(1)

14 Gsus G G/F Am Fmaj7 C/E Am Fmaj7 C/G Gsus C G F



God. Oh, wash me in His pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

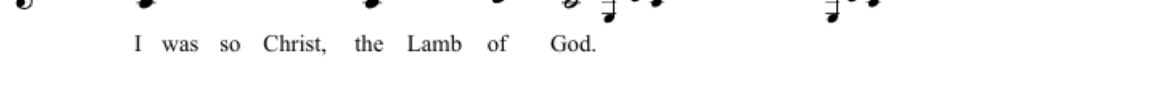
OUTRO

(1) || 2

19 C G C/G Gsus C G F C G F C



D.S.



I was so Christ, the Lamb of God.

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August 23, 2026

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Third Communion Song:

Let Us Break Bread Together

Trad. Spiritual

(as published by The United Methodist Publishing House)

Arranged by
William Farley Smith

VERSE 1, 2 & 3



1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees, let us
(2. Let us) drink wine to - geth - er on our knees, let us
(3. Let us) praise God to - geth - er on our knees, let us



break bread to - geth - er on our knees. When I fall on my
drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. When I fall on my
praise God to - geth - er on our knees. When I fall on my



knees with my face to the ris - ing sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on
knees with my face to the ris - ing sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on
knees with my face to the ris - ing sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on

1, 2

3

VERSE 4



me. 2. Let us me. 4. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees,
me. 3. Let us



let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. When I fall on my

Fourth Communion Song (*if needed*): “There Is A Redeemer”

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own son:
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

(Chorus) Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son
and leaving Your spirit til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain. (Chorus)

When I stand in Glory, I will see His face;
there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. (Chorus)

Post Communion Collect

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

(sit)

Closing Song:

In Christ Alone

(as published by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

VERSE



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in



song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and
babe! This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones He came to
slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious Day, up from the grave He rose a -
me; From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -



storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
save. Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
gain! And as He stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His



cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.
me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

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