

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 20, 2023



*Bazzi Rahib, Ilyas Basim Khuri. The Canaanite Woman asks for healing for her daughter, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tennessee*

### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Reverend Martha McCreight – *Pastor*  
Mr. Andrew Sabol – *Director of Music Ministries*  
Mrs. Julie Nieser – *Administrative Secretary*  
Dr. Stanley E. Yoder – *Cantor Emeritus*  
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[www.zionpennhills.org](http://www.zionpennhills.org)  
[www.facebook.com/zionpennhills](https://www.facebook.com/zionpennhills)

**PRELUDE:** “O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come”

Anne Krentz Organ

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly remains seated or kneels. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have hurt our community.**  
**We have squandered your blessings.**  
**We have hoarded your bounty.**  
**In the name of Jesus, forgive us**  
**and grant us your mercy.**  
**Amen.**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.  
God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God’s mercy:  
you are freed and forgiven  
in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW 641**

All Are Welcome

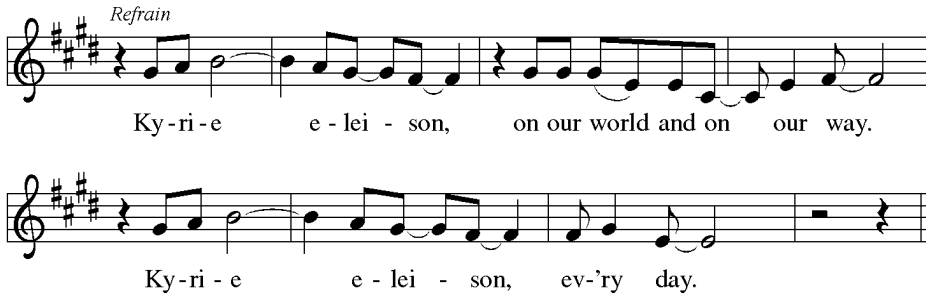
TWO OAKS

*The assembly stands.*

## **GREETING**

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



For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.** *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.** *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.** *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.** *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray, God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.

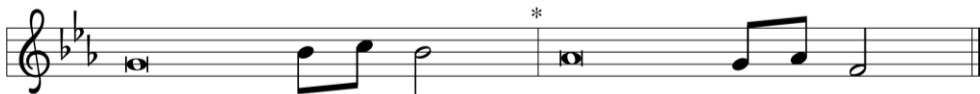
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 67

*The refrain is introduced by the cantor and repeated by the assembly as indicated.*



*The verses are chanted by all to this tone.*



- <sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to | us and bless us;  
may the light of Gods face | shine upon us.
- <sup>2</sup>Let your way be known | upon earth,  
your saving health a- | mong all nations.
- <sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the na- | tions on earth. *Refrain*

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.  
<sup>6</sup>The earth has brought | forth its increase;  
God, our own | God, has blessed us.  
<sup>7</sup>May God | give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. *Refrain*

## SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

### **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 610**

*The assembly stands.*

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

*verse 1–all, 2–women, 3–men, 4–all*

DISTRESS

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The assembly sits or kneels.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly shares a sign of peace with one another.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered and the table is set.*

**OFFERING HYMN: ELW 587**      There's a Wideness in God's Mercy      **ST. HELENA**

*The assembly stands at the last verse of the hymn as the offering is brought forward.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*All are welcome at the table Jesus Christ sets for us. You will be dismissed section by section by an usher to come forward to the bottom of the steps. As you come forward, on either side of the front pew is a tray of empty glasses (for wine) or a filled glass (with grape juice). Please take one before you come up to the steps. You will receive a piece of bread and then the assisting minister will distribute the wine. If you wish to only receive a blessing, please motion to the pastor. Gluten Free wafers are available. For those in need of assistance, please let the ushers know, and we will commune you in your pew.*

## **COMMUNION HYMNS:**

**ELW 496**

One Bread, One Body

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

**ELW 716**

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

BEATUS VIR

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

*The assembly stands.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray, we thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## **BLESSING**

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed  
bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age,  
in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 712** Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service BEACH SPRING

## **DISMISSAL**

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE:**

“Lord, Revive Us”

Aaron David Miller

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**Welcome to All Visitors:** We welcome you to Worship at Zion Lutheran Church this morning. Bulletins may be found from one of the ushers or on the table in the back of the Narthex. Families and Children are welcome to worship – please feel free to worship from your pews or to make use of our Prayground Space at the back of the sanctuary along with provided coloring materials and special children’s bulletins.

During the months of September – May, we offer Sunday School and Confirmation for children and youth after worship as well as Adult Study time in our Gerhard Lounge. You and/or your family are welcome to drop-in and join us at any time.

We hold a Hospitality time after worship throughout the year in our Gathering Space with goodies provided by volunteers from the congregation. Please feel free to stay after worship and partake in this time as you get to know more about the life of Zion Lutheran Church

We hope your worship here is fruitful and fulfills what you may need in your spiritual life this morning. If you would like to speak more with Pastor Martha, you can reach her over email [pastormartha@zionpennhills.org](mailto:pastormartha@zionpennhills.org) or by calling the office 412-242-2626.

**Blessing of Backpacks:** We will be holding our annual blessing of the backpacks, packs, and briefcases during worship **TODAY** during our Children’s message time. If you would like for your item to be blessed, please come forward at that time. Thank you!

**Brainstorming Sessions in the Gerhard Lounge:** Thanks to the IRS program “Employee Retention Credit,” Zion has received funds to be used as a congregation. To help council discern how best to do that, brainstorming sessions with members of budget and finance have been scheduled starting this month. The next session will be after worship **TODAY, August 20<sup>th</sup> and on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> in the Gerhard Lounge.** You may also share your ideas or thoughts with any member of council. (Names listed in the August Newsletter). We hope that you can join us at one of these sessions.

**Outdoor Worship Next Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup>:** We will worship outside for the final time this season next Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Please remember to bring a chair, water, and sunscreen as it can get to be sunny on the back lawn. For those unable to worship outdoors, we will also be broadcasting the service on our Facebook public page.

**Lutherlyn Campaign Kickoff Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>:** On Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> we will kickoff our participation in Lutherlyn's Capital Campaign with the presence of Pr Ryan from Lutherlyn present with us during worship. Our participation in the campaign will wrap-up on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Please see Kathy Gaberson for more information.

**Sunday School Kickoff Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>:** We will officially kickoff our Fall programming on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> with Sunday School and Confirmation formally meeting again. If you have a child or grandchild that you would like to get registered for either of these learning opportunities, please contact Ashley Faas, Chris Dippold, or Janet Mauro for Sunday School and Deb Rall or Pastor Martha for Confirmation. Thank you!

**Midweek Bible Study:** We will kickoff our midweek bible study programming on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom. Join us as we dive into the book of Matthew from the angle of Jesus' presence and ministry being "Heaven Come to Earth." Materials will be provided each week – just bring your bible and yourselves as we dive in and learn more together. Questions? Please see Pastor Martha

**Mid-year Giving Statements:** Don't forget to pick up your giving statements in the hallway leading to the offices in order to help us save on postage. If you have questions about your giving statement, please contact Deb Rall, Stewardship Secretary. Thank you!

**Good Shepherd Ministry:** This week our cards are for Joe Connors, Marion Ertel, Shirley McClure, Jean Meyer, and Don Cook. Please take a moment to sign the cards and share a smile with those unable to join us for worship. Also remember them in your prayers this week.

**Let's Open Zion's Doors to Everyone!** The Accessibility & Inclusivity Task Force was approached by two members of the congregation who expressed their desire to have an accessible door opener installed ASAP. They are offering very generous donations toward accomplishing that. At this time, we are asking members to join in the effort to make Zion accessible by making donations to the Accessibility and Inclusivity fund, which was established by the church council. *You can use a pew envelope and mark it*

*“Doors” or send a check to the church. The deadline for donations is September 1<sup>st</sup>.*  
Together, we can open Zion’s doors to all.

**Food Pantry Donations:** For the rest of this year, we will not be specifying which items we are collecting each month. Instead, we will at any time gladly accept your donations of soap, shampoo, deodorant, cleaning products or any other personal care product. The collection bin is in the narthex by the coat rack. Please put the food pantry on your shopping list! Thank you so much.

**Zion Book Club:** We will meet on **Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>** at 1:00pm in the Gerhard Lounge and on Zoom to discuss the book, “Radium Girls” by Kate Moor. All are welcome!

**Are you interested in assisting with our Healing Services?** This service consists of praying for a person and anointing their head with oil in the sign of the cross as a blessing. Ideally, we would like to have 5 volunteers for this service so that we can have two “teams of two” stationed at the foot of the stairs (one for prayer and the other for anointing) and another person who can walk into the congregation to serve anyone who cannot come forward. These services are usually scheduled 4 times a year on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. The future date is **October 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Communion to the Pews:** Would you be interested in serving with a group of volunteers to share in taking communion to the pews during Sunday worship? If so, please speak with Brenda Wolfe or Rhonda Pope.

**Zion Apartment Update:** The Property Committee is looking for volunteers to help get the apartment ready to be rented. Deep cleaning and touch up painting is needed. Please call, text, or email Marc Schuler 412-738-5709 and [724marc@gmail.com](mailto:724marc@gmail.com)

**Hard To Recycle: On Saturday, August 26,** the Pennsylvania Resources Council will hold a Hard to Recycle event at the NEXT TIER CONNECT parking lot in Monroeville. Items accepted include TV’s, Computer Monitors, Freon Appliances, Tires w or w/o rims, Fluorescent Tubes, etc. For tickets to this event please visit [www.prc.org/collection](http://www.prc.org/collection) events.

Also, the PRC holds Hard Hazardous Waste Collection events (household chemicals) and they sponsor a Glass Recycling traveling bin for those of you whose municipalities do not recycle glass. Keeping such items out of our landfills is one way we can respect our sacred earth!

**Ushers:**

August 20: Tony Lamorte Mike Patchen  
August 27: Outdoor worship  
September 3: Ray Rall  
September 10: Marc Schuler Joe Balaban  
September 17: Mark Mauro Janet Mauro  
September 24: Tony Lamorte Mike Patchen

### **Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of July 31st:**

Offering Income: \$131,481.75

Other Income:\* \$ 29,573.25

Total Income: \$161,055.00

Total Expense: \$148,377.53

Net: \$ 12,677.47

\*Thomas Child Care and Learning Center and other groups who use our facilities.

**Living Lutheran:** As you have might have read in the March issue of *Living Lutheran*, they will not be printing any more beginning with the November/December 2023 issue. You may still access this publication online at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/>

**OREMUS:** If there is someone that we can prayerfully take off of the prayer chain, please let the Church office know. If you or someone you know (who is not on the OREMUS) is in need of a pastoral visit, please let Pastor Martha know at 406-565-3592. Thank you.

### **OREMUS**

#### **Rehab Facility:**

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 110)

Nancy Fabel (Rosebrook Living Facility, Sarver, PA, Room 116)

**Prayers Requested For:** Claudia Agnew, Marion Ertel, Elouise Brooky, Mary Lou & Paul Feathers, Diane Marburger, Marge Lamorte (mother of Tony), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Sandra Short, Bob Beresky, Wayne Stumpf, Latica Green, Pari Bailey (friend of Pastor Martha), Doreen Varuolo (friend of Charlotte Murray), Dan, Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks), Samara Davis (sister of Diane Santoriello) Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello), Andrea Shissler (friend of Annette Felmley), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Michele Williams (cousin of Rhonda Pope), Kristen Lozer (friend of Audri Erfort), Ron Jeroski (friend of Charlotte Murray), Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope), Chris Vuocolo (nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), Beth Rall, Sarah, Tom & Carolyn Schuler, Marsha Balaban, Joe Hesketh, Ezra & Emery

Jordan (great grandchildren of Sandra Short), Lynn Santoriello (sister-in-law of Diane Santoriello), Theodore Stolp, Jr., Mary Jean Hawkins (cousin of Diane Santoriello), Rachel Faulkner, Margaret Thompson (mother of Darren Thompson), Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Judy Danik (friend of Charlotte Murray), Bekki Hessong (cousin of Diane Santoriello), Patrick Taylor, Abigail Gray (sister-in-law of Pastor Martha)

### **ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, August 20:**           9:30 Worship in person, Livestream on Facebook  
                                      10:30 – Budget & Finance listening session-G. Lounge  
                                      11:30- CCC Church – Chapel

**Monday, August 21:**       1:00 Zion Book Club – G. Lounge

**Wednesday, August 23:**   7:00 – Worship & Music