

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 12th, 2024



*Christ Taking Leave of the Apostles by Duccio di Buoninsegna
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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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PRELUDE: “Improvisation on Song 1 (inspired by Jehan Alain)” Wolfgang Rübsam

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 657 Rise, O Sun of Righteousness

SONNE DER
GERECHTIGKEIT

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray, Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

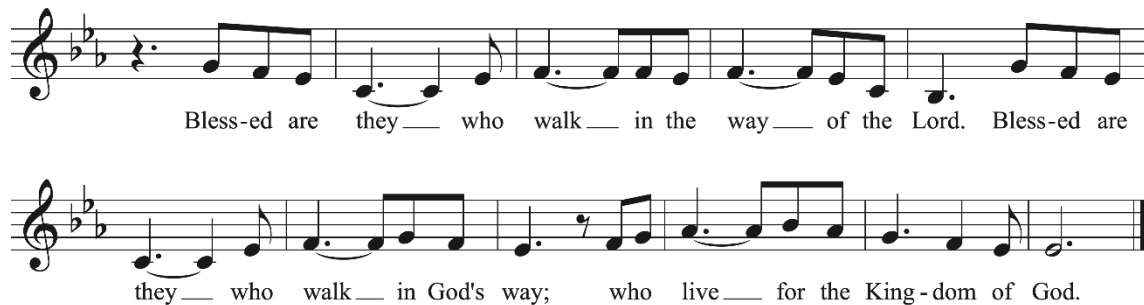
In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and

apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 1: “Blessed Are They”

setting by Greg Scheer



Bless-ed are they who walk in the way of the Lord. Bless-ed are they who walk in God's way; who live for the King-dom of God.

1. Blessed are the ones who follow God and don't walk in wicked ways.
They don't stop and talk where sinners meet or stay where scoffers congregate.
2. The righteous grow like thriving trees beside living streams, renewed.
Their deep roots, green leaves, and patience bring new seasons of abundant fruit.
3. The godless ones will disappear when the chaff is winnowed from wheat.
They will blow away in judgment winds—no roots can grow on sin's broad streets.
4. The Lord directs the righteous path; God is with us on the way.
But the wicked wander on their own without the Lord as hope and stay.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Cantor: I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord. I am coming to you. (*John 14:18*)

GOSPEL: John 17:6-19

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus prayed:] “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE
SERMON**

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 463 Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed SONG 1
The assembly stands to sing.

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 is seated or kneels for the prayers of intercession

...O God, holding the world with love, **have mercy on us.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

PIANO OFFERTORY:

“One Bread, One Body”

Mark Hayes

OFFERING HYMN: ELW 481

Come to The Table

COME TO THE TABLE

*The assembly stands to sing as the offering is brought forward.***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.****DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

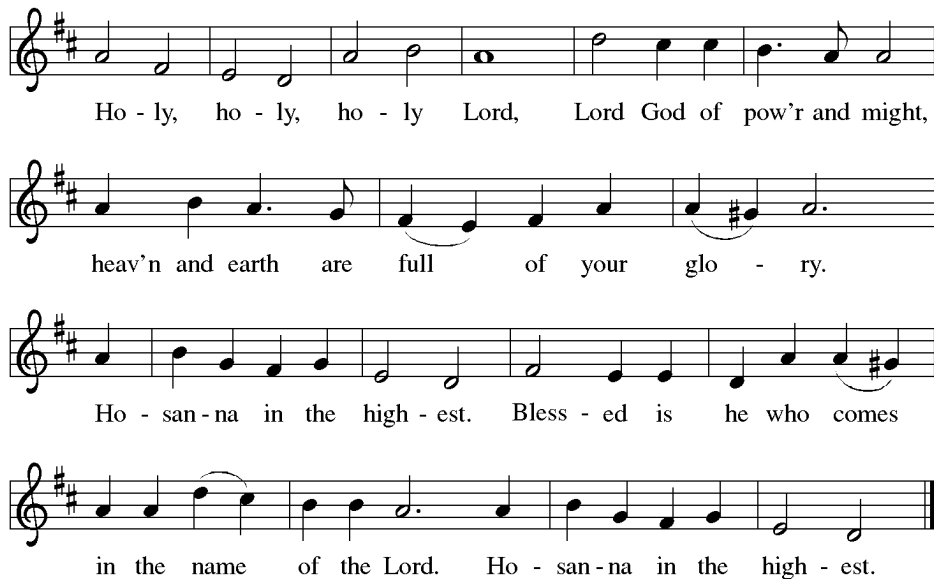
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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.
Amen.

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 may be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who believe and are baptized are welcome at the table Jesus Christ sets for us. You will be dismissed pew by pew by an usher to come forward to the railing. As you come forward, in front of the baptismal font is a tray of empty glasses (for wine) or a filled glass (with grape juice). Please take one before you come forward. You will then 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 and can be given by motioning to the pastor. For those in need of assistance, please let the ushers know, and we will commune you in your pew.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONGS

ELW 494

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

OMNI DIE

ELW 826

Thine the Amen

THINE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands.

Let us pray, Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 392

Alleluia! Sing To Jesus

HYFRYDOL

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

"Hyfrydol"

Bradley Sowash

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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The Sanctuary candle is given today in honor of Adam Pierce's birthday from Cindy Pierce.

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.

Sunday School/Confirmation: 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 or by calling the office 412-242-2626.

A very special welcome to all mothers and to all who nurture children in attendance today. “Happy Mother’s Day to all the selfless women who inspire, motivate, and remind us to be a better person every single day.”

Food Pantry This Weekend: A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped out with our May distribution this weekend. If there are additional food items leftover, you are welcome to take them with you before you leave church today. A volunteer will meet you down in the Community Room after worship for those items.

Pentecost Sunday Next Sunday: Next Sunday, wear something “Red” to celebrate Pentecost. This color reminds us that the basis of our faith in God is the “blood shed for us by Jesus.” It is also the color of fire, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. We will have readers in different languages, a woodwind quartet, and other elements added to our worship service.

Community Service Sunday – May 19th: We are in need of volunteers to help clean up our section of Jefferson Road after worship on May 19th for what we are calling “Community Service Sunday.” If you are interested in helping with this important project (and in giving back to the Penn Hills community), there is a signup sheet in the Narthex to add your name. PennDOT will supply garbage bags, vests, etc. All you need to do is bring yourself (with grubby clothes) and gloves. Thanks in advance!

Blood Pressure Screenings: We will be checking blood pressures on **Sunday, May 19th** after worship in the Gerhard Lounge. Any and all are welcome to stop by.

Mental Health May: May is Mental Health month. Please see literature about mental health in the rack by the Gerhard Lounge. Also, there is a Mental Health May calendar on the kiosk listing ways you can improve your mental health.

Graham Standish May Update: Members of the working group met with Graham on Tuesday May 7th at Zion. Our phase of working with Graham has now moved into the “Active” phase of our work together, whereby Graham has members of the working group visit different churches which are deemed as “diverse, growing, and young.”

Members of the working group were tasked with visiting a worship service at Amplify Church (Downtown Pittsburgh) and then shared their thoughts and perspectives at our May gathering, i.e. what we liked, didn’t like, did we notice God’s presence, etc. Members of the working group will next be visiting a worship service at Bidwell Presbyterian Church – Northside before our meeting in June.

Anniversary Offering: The designation of the Anniversary Offering will go to towards signage which has been approved by Council.

Recognition of all 2024 Graduates: If you are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc., please notify Julie at our Church office (julie@zionpennhills.org) or 412-242-2626 with your date of graduation, degree, and name of school by **May 19th** for inclusion in our Zion Newsletter and Prayers of Intercession.

Annual Congregation Meeting – June 2nd: Our annual Congregation meeting will be on Sunday, June 2nd immediately after worship. All names of nominees to serve on council should be given to the Nominating Committee – Marc Schuler, Chris Dippold and Rhonda Pope. All those who are voting members of Zion, please plan to stay after worship for this meeting. Thank you!

Annual Committee Reports: Please submit your annual report to Julie no later than **May 24th**. **Please remember to sign your report.** Thank you.

Lutherlyn Campership for Summer 2024: Is your child or grandchild interested in attending Lutherlyn this summer? Did you know that Zion has camperships available to help offset the cost of attending? If interested, please see Pastor Martha.

Parish Life Committee Updates – May 2024: Hard to believe, but Summer (while it feels it's already here) is just around the corner! With that, Parish Life will see some changes to our weekly hospitality hour during the summer months. With summer comes vacation season, and well, less folks on Sunday's. This gives the Parish Life team an opportunity to regroup and take a much-needed break!

Our last full Sunday Hospitality Hour will be Sunday, May 19, 2024 (Pentecost Sunday). We'll share a joint Hospitality Hour with our friends from Christian Education as they celebrate the year end of Sunday School & Confirmation classes. We will continue to celebrate birthdays the first Sunday of each month, however.

Those dates will be:

Sunday, June 2 nd	Sunday, August 4 th
Sunday, July 7 th	Sunday, September 1 st

We will resume normal Hospitality Hour on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

As always, we're grateful for those who participate by bringing both sweet & savory goodies to share. If you would like to bring something, simply just add your name to the calendar in the Gathering Space. Any and all snacks & treats are welcome, and it helps the Parish Life folks know what we need from one week to the next!

Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Respectfully –

Parish Life Committee

Food Pantry:

I'll send little reminders throughout the year

To please get products for the Food Pantry and spread some cheer.

But it seems I'm out of poems that make the message more fun.

So for now, these little rhymes are done!

Thank you! 😊 Zion Lutheran Food Pantry Leadership

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Alice & Robert Bartley, Marian Dailey, Paul & Mary Lou Feathers, and Theodore Stolp, Jr. 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.

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)

Paul and Mary Lou Feathers (Presbyterian Homes, Oakmont, Room 204)

Prayers Requested for: John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Marion Ertel, Amy Santoriello, Mary Jane Anthony, Patricia Lamorte (wife of Tony), Marge Lamorte (mother of Tony Lamorte), Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Wayne Stumpf, Natalie Kuehn & family, Joe Nepsa & family, Pari Bailey (friend of Pastor Martha), Mary Rex (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks), Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Michael Ladonne (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, Betsy Heston, Marylene Gingras-Roi (friends of Barbara Stolp), Lynn Santoriello (sister-in-law of Diane Santoriello), Rachel Faulkner, Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, Bonnie Hanssen (mother-in-law of Pastor Martha), and for the family and friends of Robert Beresky.

ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 12: 9:30 – In person, Livestream on Facebook
10:45 – Sunday School/Confirmation
6:30-8:00 – EAYC Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 15: 1:00 – Zion Bible Study – G. Lounge and Zoom

Thursday, May 16: 8:00 –Last Choir Rehearsal for the Year

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of April 30th:

Offering Income: \$72,305.24

Other Income:* \$20,598.31

Total Income: \$92,903.55

Total Expense: \$91,647.31

Net: \$ 1,256.24

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

BREAD SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2024

May 12: Chrissa Clark
May 19: Jeannette Christensen
May 26: Pat Hauser

USHER SCHEDULE FOR MAY/2024

Sunday, May 12, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mark Mauro
Sunday, May 19, 2024	Ray Rall	Mike Patchen
Sunday, May 26, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban