

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

July 26, 2026

8:00 am



The Chosen Treasure

Zion Lutheran Church
1400 S Duluth Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

AS WE GATHER

In Deuteronomy, God chooses Israel not because of their own greatness, but purely out of His baseline love and faithfulness to His promise. Romans mirrors this comforting truth, assuring us that our salvation rests entirely on God's active purpose—nothing in all creation can separate believers from His love in Christ Jesus. Finally, the Matthew parables illustrate the supreme, hidden value of the Kingdom of Heaven. Together, they comfort the believer... we do not find God; rather, He treasures, chooses, and securely holds us by grace alone.

WELCOME | ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREET ONE ANOTHER

OPENING HYMN: LSB 656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
 A trusty shield and weapon;
 He helps us free from ev'ry need
 That hath us now o'ertaken.
 The old evil foe
 Now means deadly woe;
 Deep guile and great might
 Are his dread arms in fight;
 On earth is not his equal.

- 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
 Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
 Of Sabaoth Lord,
 And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.
- 3 Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
 They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
 He can harm us none.
 He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.
- 4 The Word they still shall let remain
 Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
 With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
 Though these all be gone,
 Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

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INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: Amid trouble, distress, and persecution,

Pastor: Christ Jesus is interceding for us.

People: Amid hunger, loneliness, and danger,

Pastor: Christ Jesus is interceding for us.

People: Amid violence, powers, heights, and depths,

Pastor: Christ Jesus is interceding for us.

People: Amid life and death,

Pastor: Christ Jesus is interceding for us.

People: Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from Christ Jesus our Lord.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Mighty and merciful Lord, with heavy hearts we confess our sin to You.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: we have sinned against You, mighty God, in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: When we have lived as though we are separated from Your steadfast love,

People: we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: When our loneliness has caused us to question Your abiding love,

People: we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: When we have let others around us live in loneliness, when all they need is a listening ear,

People: we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: When we have separated ourselves from the Church, from friends, from our families,

People: we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Bring us to repentance, Lord. Forgive our sins, those of which we are aware and those we do unwittingly. Have mercy on us. Seek us, for You alone can find us and restore us.

Pastor: Thus says the Lord God, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” 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.

People: Amen.

INTROIT: Psalm 125; antiphon vs. 2

Pastor: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,

People: which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

Pastor: As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

People: so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.

Pastor: The scepter of the wicked will not remain

People: over the land allotted to the righteous,

Pastor: for then the righteous might use

People: their hands to do evil.

Pastor: Lord, do good to those who are good,

People: to those who are upright in heart.

Pastor: But those who turn to crooked ways

People: the Lord will banish with the evildoers.

All: Peace be on Israel.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

People: so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People (sing): Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People (sing): Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

People (sing): Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People (sing): Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People (sing): Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: LSB 933 “My Soul Rejoices”

1 My soul rejoices,
My spirit voices—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior
Has shown me favor—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing,
Join in confessing
God, who is solely
Mighty and holy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely
Shall rest securely
On all who fear Him,
Love and revere Him—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

2 His arm now baring,
His strength declaring—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters,
Their rule He shatters—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted;
The meek exalted.
Full are the hungry;
Empty, the wealthy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token
All that was spoken
To Abr’ham’s offspring
God is fulfilling—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together:

You treasure us, O Lord, and You steadfastly love Your chosen people. In the midst of even the worst things that can happen to us, we are more than conquerors through the love of Jesus. Help us to know the peace that Your presence brings in the midst of our troubles, and guide us toward the kingdom You promised; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

TIME IN THE WORD

Children's Bible Reading: Page 124

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6–9

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Reader: This Is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:28–39

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: This Is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise out of respect for the words and ministry of Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE

People (sing): Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:44–52

People (sing): Glory to You, O Lord.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People (sing): Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN: LSB 784 “Take My Life and Let It Be”

1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

THE SERMON

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, 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.

OFFERING | TREASURE BOX

OFFERING HYMN: LSB 781 “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2 May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blesest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!

3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead,
And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled
Are straying from the fold.

4 To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless
Is angels' work below.

5 The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.

6 And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 548

“Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious”

1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious!

Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!

Death hath now no power o'er us,

Thou hast conquered in the strife.

Thanks because Thou didst arise

And hast opened paradise!

None can fully sing the glory

Of the resurrection story.

2 Thou hast died for my transgression,

All my sins on Thee were laid;

Thou hast won for me salvation,

On the cross my debt was paid.

From the grave I shall arise

And shall meet Thee in the skies.

Death itself is transitory;

I shall lift my head in glory.

3 For the joy Thine advent gave me,

For Thy holy, precious Word;

For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,

For Thy blest Communion board;

For Thy death, the bitter scorn,

For Thy resurrection morn,

Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,

And in heav'n I shall behold Thee.

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SEND OFF

Leader: At Zion Lutheran we are committed to reaching out,
strengthening the saved,

All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!