

Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

P=Presider R=Responses

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

"Thou Art Worthy" by Pauline M. Mills & Tom Smail; Based on Revelation 4:11, 5:9

(Please stand, kneel or remain seated)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

R **Amen**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

R **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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 us and, for his sake, forgive us all our sins.

R **Amen**

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.

All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,

in him meet south and north;

all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

R **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**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

R **And also with you.**

RESPONSE

(Please remain seated as you are able)

OFFERING

"I Will Serve Thee" by William J. Gaither & Gloria Gaither

(Please stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th Chapter.

R Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P The gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON *Rev. Stan Sultemeier*

HYMN OF THE DAY *"In Christ There Is No East or West"* **HYMN NO. 650**

**In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.**

GATHERING

(Please stand as you are able)

GATHERING HYMN *"Healer of Our Every Ill"* (vs.1,3,4)

HYMN NO. 612

**Refrain: Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. Refrain**

**Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. Refrain**

**You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. Refrain**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R And also with you.

A Praise the LORD!

R Praise the LORD, O my soul!

A I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

R I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

A Do not put your trust in princes,

R in mortals, in whom there is no help.

A When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

R on that very day their plans perish.

A Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

R whose hope is in the LORD their God,

A who made heaven and earth,

R the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

A who executes justice for the oppressed;

R who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

A the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

R The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous. (Psalm 146)

P The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

P Let us pray. Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

R Amen

(Please be seated)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Less Like Me” by Zach Williams

Judy McGookey

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God’s vengeance on Edom, Israel’s age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles’ return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING James 2:1-10, 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God’s will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Thy Word”

Thy Word is a lamp un-to _ my feet and a light un-to my path.

Thy Word is a lamp un-to _ my feet and a light un-to my path.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second staff is identical to the first.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

R 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

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.

R Amen

SENDING HYMN "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" **HYMN NO. 708**

**Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. Refrain**

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are near us and far away. Refrain**

**These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. Refrain**

**Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. Refrain**

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.; Text © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

"Bringing in the Sheaves" by George A. Minor & Knowles Shaw
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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fredericksburg, Texas

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Go Like Our Facebook Page @ <https://www.facebook.com/zionfredericksburgtx/>

15th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept. 5, 2021

Broadcast on KNAF (910AM) at 10:30AM

Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 10:30AM

(go to www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube)

Podcast available www.zion-lutheran.com under sermons tab

Pastor – Rev. Ron Windecker; prwzion@gmail.com

Accompanist – Sheri Robinson; Director of Music – Ray Salinas

Videographer – Peter Ray

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: our homebound and shut-ins, all other nursing home residents, Claribel Hannemann, The Family of Jeffery Glenn Jenschke (brother of Vicki Hartcraft and Lionel Jenschke), The Family of Jane Kessler, Ashley Klaerner (son of Dorothy Moellering), Jerome Lindig, Margaret Wilke, our Fredericksburg community, our government, our nation, and the military.

Thank you to Rev. Stan Sultemeier for presiding over worship today while Pastor Ron is on vacation.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God given by Charles Schroeder in loving memory of Fred, Ethel and Dorothy Schroeder.

Special Concern for September is Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States since 1939. This ongoing partnership and work is driven by God's love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry. The work of the ELCA through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service includes providing assistance on the Mexico side of the Border with clothes, food and clean water. This is a non-political entity. Join us in this courageous work of serving and loving our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ.

Due to the rise in Covid cases, we are postponing the opening of Sunday School until a later date. It was not a decision that was made lightly, but thoroughly thought through. We will keep you informed as to when Sunday School will begin.

Thank you for your General Fund Contributions of \$660 and your Special Contributions of \$300 given this past week. **Attendance:** 40

WORSHIP ASSISTANT & LECTOR – Robert Menking

USHERS – Neal Burnham, David Hartmann, Gina Koennecke, Jill Minshew,
Sandy Schmitzinsky

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

MON – Sept 6		Office Closed for Labor Day
WED – Sept 8		NO Laborers of Love
SAT – Sept 11	2-4:00pm	Reception in memory of Peggy Janssen – Fell Hall
SUN – Sept 12	8:00am	In-Person Worship
	8:00am	Service Broadcast on KNAF
	8:00am	Service Live on YouTube
		www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube