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AMERICA

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YEARS OF FREEDOM



Sunday, July 5, 2026

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Semiquincentennial

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan

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HOLY COMMUNION

Setting Four

*Regular font: Worship Leader; **Bold font: Congregation***

Prelude

WELCOME

GATHERING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,

**we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.**

**Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.**

We lament the evil that holds us captive.

**We repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us
for lives of compassion and courage
through our Savior Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

All-merciful, Almighty God

forgive you all your sins

through the grace of + Jesus Christ,

and by the Spirit's power

strengthen you in doing what is good.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “Before You, Lord, We Bow” **ELW 893**

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-14 (*spoken responsively*)

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,

slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are ¹ good to all,**

and your compassion is over ¹ all your works.

¹⁰ All your works shall praise ¹ you, O LORD,

and your faithful ¹ ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory^l of your kingdom
and speak^l of your power,**

¹² that all people may know^l of your power
and the glorious splendor^l of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion
endures through-^l out all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in^l all
your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all^l those who fall
and lifts up those who^l are bowed down.

SECOND READING:

Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say,

‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Peter Willse, LLM

One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Day by Day”

ELW 790

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation’s praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name before you now (*a brief silence*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. (*Here specific names may be mentioned.*) Gather us, together with those who have gone before us (*especially*), and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

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MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,

for waves of grain and harvesters,
fruitful vines and winepresses,
for our labor and our rest,
for the gifts of your hand in this land.
Transform us and what we offer
into the banquet of your compassion,
serving your love without limits
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
you alone are Majesty,
you alone are Excellency,
you alone are Sovereign.

Within the vast reaches you splashed into being,
you formed our star and this planet:
purple mountains, fruited plains,
crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines.
Here you fashioned human beings
in our infinite variety and hue,
yet each one created equal,
to care for one another
and our earthly home.

In a time of peace
enforced by the cruelty of empire,
you came in Jesus to share our life.
Born under the rule of a merciless king,
Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God.
Moving across borders
to people broken and oppressed,
Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime,
Christ's resurrection that buries death,
Christ's ascension to rule with love forever,
we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

God, shed your grace on us.
Shower your Holy Spirit
on these gifts of bread and wine
and on your people gathered this day.
Ignite in us the flame of freedom—
freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear;
freedom for acceptance, for welcome,
for the *shalom* that you have first shown to us.

Faithful God, loving God:
Your Majesty shines forth in weakness.
Your Excellency is revealed to infants.
Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross.
Yours, O God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
is the everlasting kingdom,
the peaceable power,
and the humble glory,
now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:
Taste and know that God is good to all.

DISTRIBUTION

Please kneel or sit

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Softly and Tenderly”

ELW 608

“Oh For a Thousand Tongues”

ELW 886

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, God of heaven and earth,
that you fill our deepest need
with the very gift of Jesus Christ,
broken and poured out for us.
Pour us out into a broken world.
Channel our common life
toward the common good,
following the way our Savior leads us
now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

The Author of life,
the Word of salvation,
the Breath of new birth,
+ one God, bless you
and equip you for living and serving,
today and every day. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “O Beautiful For Spacious Skies” ELW 888

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Prayer List

For Health:	Bud J	Annamaria T	For Safety:
Joyce G	Jessica A	Lee T	Andrew C
Cathy L	Charlotte D	Michael G	Todd S
Marion B	Jonathan A	Barbara S	Michael C
Lily V	Curt R	Don R	Tyler G
Holly N	Joan A	Fred B	Erik B
Lisa A	Dick C	Bill B	Justin Earl B
Dylan G	Karen R	Roselies K	Evan G
Aiden J	Pat J	Alexis S	David P
Helen A	Alexis R	Justin Z	
Matthew A	Malynda A	Tom Z	

SERVING TODAY

Donna Cote - Lector
Kathy Richards - Worship Assistant
Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson - Ushers/Greeters
Carol Murphy - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist



Please Recycle Ink and Toner Cartridges Here.

There is a container to leave your used ink and toner cartridges for us to recycle.



The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for July**

August and September are available in the Narthex and the Red Box outside the preschool doors.



RaiseRight

RaiseRight Gift Cards

Place your order today to get RaiseRight (formerly Scrip)

cards! You pay face value for the cards, but Zion receives a percentage of the amount of the card. It's a win-win! See Rick Borg for details.

Update:

Due date is extended to July 12!

Grace Guild is purchasing items, that there is a great need for, to donate to the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services in Newington.

The items needed are:

Men's White or color T-shirts - Medium, Large and X Large.

Men's Underwear - Medium, Large and X Large

Personal Items - Razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant and body wash.

If you are interested in helping support our local veterans, cash donations are accepted and appreciated.

Items and donations will be accepted through July 12th.



The **Worship & Music Committee** is collecting snack donations for the summer months to be donated to the Food Bank. We will be collecting **starting in June**. A few Ideas for items would be:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| juice boxes or canned juices | packaged peanut butter & fruit in small containers | crackers |
| applesauce in small containers | boxed raisins | packaged cheese & crackers |
| microwavable popcorn | gummy fruit snacks | breakfast bars (Belvita, Kind or any brand) |
| peanut butter | pretzels | granola bars |
| | | cookies |
| | | crackers |
| | | chips |



Make sure to use a **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Card** whenever you donate to Goodwill. See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.

Council Members: President - Kathy Richards, Vice President - Paula Brown, Secretary - Barbara Helming, Financial Secretary - Rick Borg, Other Members - Beth Keser, Bob Redman, Peter Willse, Christine Kelsey, Kate Schneider

Today: July 5, 2026

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

Guest Preacher - Peter Willse

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A

Friday: **7:00 p.m.** N/A

Next Sunday:

July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church



Next weeks readings: Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13;
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Attendance: Last week - 38; Last year - 58

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, we exist to honor and proclaim the life of Jesus Christ through our words, actions and deeds.

VISION STATEMENT

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a prominent magnet in the community to draw people to a new life in Jesus Christ.

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