



# GENEROSITY

~ Matthew 20

**Sunday, September 20, 2026**  
*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan  
P.O. Box 202, 183 William Street  
Portland, CT 06480  
860-342-2860  
[www.zionlutheranportland.org](http://www.zionlutheranportland.org)  
email: [zion.lutheran@snet.net](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net)

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Setting Two*

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

### GATHERING

*Prelude:*

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.  
**Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,  
let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,  
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness  
in the world and in our own hearts.**  
**Creation groans from overuse.**  
**Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.**  
**Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.**  
**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love  
to others.**  
**Turn our hearts back to you.**  
**Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.**  
**Renew us to live as your holy people,**  
**following the way of Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

Hear this good news:  
We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ,  
in whom there is no condemnation,  
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.  
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

“Gather Us In”

**ELW 532**

### 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**

**pg. 120**

**GLORY TO GOD**

**pg. 121**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

*Please be seated*

**FIRST READING**

**Jonah 3:10—4:11**

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup> And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup> The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup> Then

the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Word of God. Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 145:1-8**

- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my <sup>1</sup> God and king,  
and bless your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.  
<sup>2</sup> **Every day <sup>1</sup> will I bless you**  
**and praise your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.**  
<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and greatly <sup>1</sup> to be praised!  
There is no end <sup>1</sup> to your greatness.  
<sup>4</sup> **One generation shall praise your works <sup>1</sup> to another**  
**and shall de- <sup>1</sup> clare your power.**  
<sup>5</sup> I will speak of the glorious splendor <sup>1</sup> of your majesty  
and all your <sup>1</sup> marvelous works.  
<sup>6</sup> **They shall tell of the might of your <sup>1</sup> wondrous acts,**  
**and I will re- <sup>1</sup> count your greatness.**  
<sup>7</sup> They shall publish the remembrance of <sup>1</sup> your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully <sup>1</sup> of your righteousness.  
<sup>8</sup> **The LORD is gracious and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion,**  
**slow to anger and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.**

*Please stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**pg. 124**

**GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them,

‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

*Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan*

*One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.*

*Please stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”  
**ELW 712**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**pg. 127**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

*A brief silence.*

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (especially). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

**pg. 128**

**MEAL**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN**

*Please Stand*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of creation,  
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.  
All blessings are from you;  
make us generous with what we have.  
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts  
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,  
today and always. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**pg. 129**

It is indeed right...

**SANCTUS**

**pg. 130**

*Please kneel or sit*

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *(Traditional)*

**pg. 134**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ invites you to this table.  
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

**DISTRIBUTION**

*Please be seated*

**LAMB OF GOD**

**pg. 135**

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

"Just As I Am, without One Plea"

**ELW 592**

"Our Father, We Have Wandered"

**ELW 606**

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Sustaining God,  
with this bread and cup,  
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.  
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.  
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,

following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of grace  
+ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**    “When Peace like a River”    **ELW 785**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude:*

### **SERVING TODAY**

Don Roche - Lector  
Jay Huntington - Worship Assistant  
Donna Berndtson, Rick Borg - Ushers/Greeters  
Donna Marlow - Altar Guild  
Sarah Dzialo - Organist

## Prayer List

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



The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for October, November and December** are available in the Narthex and the Grey Box outside.



Please attend the Zion Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church Potluck Location Lunch!!

It will be held at

**ZLC on Saturday**

**October 3rd from noon to 3pm.**

There will be activities for the kids and adults.

Please bring a dish to share. Snacks, main dish, side dish, or dessert. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Looking forward to seeing you!!

Life Line Screening will be at Zion on Sept 29th.

Special screening package for  
\$129 for our members includes:

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!  
**800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**



**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.



#### Please Recycle Ink and Toner Cartridges Here.

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



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

***If someone you meet today needs clothing, and that someone has no money, where will you send them?***

Good question. When ten people are asked, five say they don't know, another five think that maybe one church or another has a clothing closet. In our community there needs to be an answer to that question that serves the interests of the whole community and **that EVERYONE knows about.**

This is why the **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Cards** are so important.

It's very simple - you fill out the card with your name and date and give it to the Goodwill employee along with your donations of **textiles, shoes and clothing** (these are the only items credit is given for). Goodwill and St. Vincent De Paul does the rest.

Each month Goodwill supplies vouchers to St. Vincent De Paul based on the weight of donated clothing. The vouchers are given to people in need who can use them at Goodwill to purchase (free) clothing. Persons/families needing clothing will be treated to a dignified retail shopping experience in which they make their own selections.

Community clothing closets will no longer have to maintain staff for guest hours, receiving, sorting, cleaning and storage of clothing.

**NO CASH CHANGES HANDS.** Clothing is managed by a successful and professional non-profit organization (Goodwill). Vouchers can be used to purchase clothing or small household items.

**FOR THIS PROGRAM TO WORK,** agencies, members of the faith community, individuals and businesses must actively promote the donation of clothing, shoes and textiles to Goodwill **USING A SPECIFIC DONATION CARD** which identifies SVDM as the beneficiary agency of record (cards now available!).

See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.

**Today: September 20, 2026**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:15 a.m.** Sunday School

**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:**



**September 27, 2026**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:30 a.m.** The Chosen

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church

Next weeks readings: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9;  
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

**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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