

"We will always be with the Lord."

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND CONSECRATION

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

The Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

November 8, 2020

AS WE GATHER

We hear today the extremely encouraging words from the apostle Paul concerning our everlasting life. Paul tells us, "We will always be with the Lord." What comforting words! What encouraging words! You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence. **Today is also Consecration Sunday at Zion.** Rejoicing that Jesus will come again, we consider today how God has equipped us individually and together for sharing this news and strengthening the faith of our households and world in this coming year.



David Garcia, organ
Pastor Stephen Heimer

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

MISSION PRAYER

Almighty God, Heavenly Father Your mercies are new to us each morning and your faithfulness reaches to eternity. Today You again invite us to celebrate Your gift of life in Christ and to pray for Your Church and world. We offer You new this day our lives, our thanks, and also the heartaches and hopes of the world; we bring before You the names and needs of our families and friends, our neighborhoods and our nation, our city and our world, Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your Church and upon this congregation that we boldly live the joy and healing power of Your Son's resurrection. In the precious Name of Jesus. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" v.1-2 LSB 802

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** Amen.

ADORATION

- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver us!
- C** **O Lord, make haste to help us!**
- P** May all who seek the Lord rejoice and be glad in Him!
- C** **May we say evermore, "God is great!"**
- P** For Christ is coming soon.
- C** **Soon, He will descend from the heavens.**
- P** Soon, He will raise the dead.
- C** **And we will always be with the Lord.**
- P** He is our help and our deliverer.
- C** **O Lord, do not delay!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Indeed, Christ is coming soon to raise the dead and bring us into everlasting life with Him. Yet there are times when we have lived as if Christ's return was not important and not imminent. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

- P** Heavenly Father,
- C** **we confess that we have ignored You and our neighbors in need. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be encouraged by Your presence and forgiven of our sin.**
- P** God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise 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.
- C** **Amen. We are forgiven. We look for the return of Jesus.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" v.3-4 LSB 802

3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
 All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see
 And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord, encourage us with Your presence in Your Word and Sacraments, that we be strengthened for service to You and our neighbors as we await the return of Jesus, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

(The day of the Lord is coming.)

Amos 5:18–24

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

(We will always be with the Lord.)

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Matthew 25:13

G Alleluia. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

(The parable of the ten virgins.)

Matthew 25:1–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" LSB 515



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

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SERMON

"Ready for the Feast"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, through You all things were made. You have entrusted us with the care of all creation. Embolden us to be good and faithful stewards of all that You have made until You return to dwell with us again. For until Your return, we pray,
- C** **come quickly, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Lord Jesus, in Your incarnation and birth You deigned to dwell among us, even as an infant. Bring comfort to all those who are living through the challenges of infertility and miscarriage. Bring them Your healing, and give them wisdom as they seek to do Your will. For until Your return, we pray,
- C** **come quickly, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Lord Jesus, in Your earthly life You suffered much at the hands of lawless men. Be with all those who suffer now through abuse, illness, or injustice, [*especially* . . .]. Heal them according to Your will. For until Your return, we pray,
- C** **come quickly, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Lord Jesus, by Your death and resurrection, You destroyed death forever. While we look forward to the resurrection, each human being still faces earthly death. We bring before You all those who are mourning the death of loved ones, [*especially* . . .]. Comfort them with Your presence and the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. For until Your return, we pray,
- C** **come quickly, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Lord Jesus, be present in Your Church. Give us faithful pastors, teachers, musicians, administrators, and other church workers, that we walk together with You, bringing Your Gospel to all nations. For until Your return, we pray,

C come quickly, Lord Jesus.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING

Spiritual "Shall We Gather at the River"

Bruce Nehring, *Piano*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Wayne & Mariann Porter

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

On this Consecration Sunday, we set aside a few minutes to prayerfully consider our response to God's grace, to God's call, to His promised Glory, and to the freedom He gives us by His grace to serve and give in Christ's precious name. A Consecration guide is inserted in the back pages of your bulletin (due to COVID measures, a bit different from past years).

If you are a guest here today, please know there is no obligation to participate in this consideration of gifts and service at home and at Zion. This time can be spent in prayer.

SPECIAL MUSIC

David Garcia, organ

OFFERTORY HYMN OF CONSECRATION

"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" LSB 783



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use 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.

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.

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LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

BENEDICTION

P Go out into the world in Christ's peace; have courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And Almighty God the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you. (Romans 12:9-12)

G Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" LSB 848



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of
2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home-less; Still the hun - gry
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -
4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,
name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -
Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and
Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -
pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring
com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.
love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.
us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.
ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ZION CONSECRATION GUIDE 2020

Let this page stir your prayers and plans for this year of stewardship at home, at Zion, and anywhere you go. Jot down your specific plans on this page or elsewhere. Keep it somewhere it can serve as a reminder of your intentions throughout the year. On Consecration Sunday you may place your hand upon this page as we pray silently and together, presenting your intentions to the Lord with hopefulness, honored that He blesses us to serve, and rejoicing that we are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ.

"We are [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

PRAYER



SCRIPTURE



SERVICE



HOSPITALITY



SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS



WORK



LEARNING



FINANCES



BELONGINGS



ONLINE



CARE



ZION



"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

+ + +

Offerings

You can contribute offerings using three main methods:

Online donations: You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at www.zionelpaso.org. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofits. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

Mail donations: Mail your check to the Zion church office at 2808 Pershing Drive, El Paso, TX 79903. The mail is checked every day.

Donations via an app: If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Give Plus app. You can easily set up an account and donation through the app.

Your offerings and support are crucial to our congregation and we are very grateful for your support!

Altar Flowers today are given by Peggy Djerf to the glory of God and in celebration of birthdays for Emily Sanchez, Robert Sanchez, and Fay Eckstrom. Thanks be to God for his countless blessings!

Voters' Meeting Today, Sunday, November 8, 2020, after the worship service. The meeting is expected to start at 12:00pm. Members of Zion can join us either on Zoom or safely spaced in the church auditorium. We will be nominating and electing next year's officers and receiving new members into our congregation.

Collecting Toys for YLM's Christmas Gift Distribution: LWML will be collecting toys (in the \$10 to \$12 price range) to donate to YLM for their annual Christmas Gift Distribution, this year entitled, "2020 Joy Distribution". We are inviting the members and friends of Zion to join us, once again, in this Outreach project. A Thrivent Action Grant is being applied for to help us kickstart the project; we will be collecting toys during the months of October and November, as toys need to be delivered to YLM by December 5th. You may bring your donations to church and place them, unwrapped, in the designated bins in the Auditorium or you may call Lydia Williams at (915) 630-2131, if you would like to have a member of LWML pick up your donation at your home. In addition, if you are not able to go out and shop/purchase a toy, contact Lydia, and a member of LWML will be happy to do that for you. Thanks, in advance, for your support in this special outreach to families in need! **(This will be the only Christmas toy**

collection/outreach at Zion this year; because of the pandemic, Zion will not be participating in Angel Tree this year. If you were planning to buy an Angel Tree gift, you are asked to please consider contributing to this collection for YLM's toy distribution. Thanks!!)

Join Any Zion Bible Study From Home! We are working to continue being a channel for the Holy Spirit through God's word, and to help keep our Zion family connected. *Never attended an online meeting? No problem! All are invited, please contact the Zion office at 915.566.4667 for login information or questions.*

THIS WEEK AT ZION

11/9	Monday	7:00 PM	"Berea" Bible Study
11/10	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Eastside Bible Study
11/11	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Small Group Prayer on Zoom
11/12	Thursday	7:00 PM	"Acts" Bible Study
11/13	Friday	10:00 AM	"Faith That Sees Through the Culture" Bible Study
11/15	Sunday	9:15 AM	"Households of Faith" Bible Study
		10:30 AM	Worship Service
		12:00 PM	Voters' Meeting

ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE

Preacher & Liturgist:	Pastor Stephen Heimer
Organist:	David Garcia
Elders:	Jim Smith
Reader:	Tim Kludt
Acolyte:	Gabryelle Rodriguez
Altar Guild:	Barbara Fourzan, Mary Sanchez
Camera Operator:	Jaden Heimer
Sound Director:	Brenna Rodriguez
Offering Counter:	Sharon Amastae