

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

## LITURGY OF THE WORD AND OF PRAYER

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

The Sixth Sunday Of Easter + Mother's Day

May 9, 2021

### AS WE GATHER

A simple and poignant Sunday School song says simply, "God sees the little sparrow fall. It meets His tender view; if God so loves the little birds, I know He loves me too." The central theme of the song is the care of God for His creation. The words also serve as a reminder that God sees us, His children, in a special way. We are the crown of His creation, as are all the people He has fashioned. Seeing people as God sees them is central to our lives of faith!



### PRESERVICE MUSIC

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

David Garcia, *organ*  
Pastor Stephen Heimer

### OPENING HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" v.1,3 LSB 686



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,  
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less  
Bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me  
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.  
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

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### INVOCATION

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

**G** Amen.

### OPENING VERSICLES

**P** Praise the LORD!

**G** Praise the LORD, O my soul!

Psalms 146:1-2, 5, 10

- P** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
- C** **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
- C** **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**
- P** The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
- C** **Praise the LORD!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.
- C** **Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.**
- P** God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## ENTRANCE HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" v.4 LSB 686



4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy  
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,  
How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er  
tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine  
an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

(People from every nation are accepted by God.)

Acts 10:34–48

<sup>34</sup>Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup>you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." <sup>44</sup>While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup>For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**

(The victory of Christ overcomes the world.)

1 John 5:1–8

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**

Romans 6:9; John 16:33b

**C** **Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

(Obeying Christ's commands and remaining in His love)

John 15:9–17

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

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.

**SERMON HYMN**

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" v.1,3,5-6 LSB 845

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There  
 3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As  
 5 Let us re - call that in our midst Dwells  
 6 For love ex - cludes no race or clan That

God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er  
 we our faults con - fess, And let us love each  
 Christ, His on - ly Son; As mem - bers of His  
 names the Sav - ior's name; His fam - i - ly em -

by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.  
 oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.  
 bod - y joined We are in Him made one.  
 brac - es all Whose Fa - ther is the same.

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**SERMON**

"Loving Like God"

**OFFERING**

David Garcia, organ

**OFFERTORY**

"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" v.1,3 LSB 782

1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings  
 3 In His earth - ly life, our Sav - ior

New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies  
 Knew the care of faith - ful friends; May our deeds of

nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.  
 ded - i - ca - tion Of - fer love that nev - er ends.

*Refrain*

Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,  
 Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

with the hymn: "Now Thank We All Our God" LSB 895

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

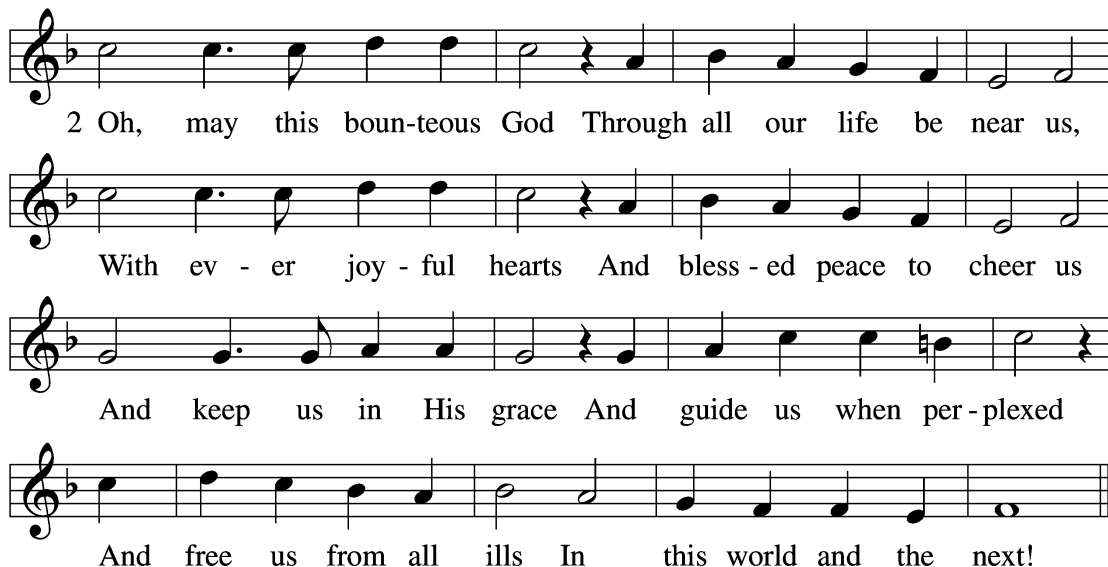
We thank God for the Church and pray that God's people live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we pray that we be blessed with all grace and evidence the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Lord, be with us and bless us.



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love And still is ours to-day.

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**P** We pray for our families, especially for mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers on this special day. We ask the blessing of our bounteous God on all those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship and for all who are part of the household of faith. Also we pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut-in, those who are grieving, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all those whose needs are known to us, *[especially . . .]*. Lord, grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places.



2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!

Text and tune: Public domain

**P** Most merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives, seeing each person through Your loving eyes, until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.

**G** Amen.

△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,  
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,  
 The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;  
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

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### LORD'S PRAYER

Ⓛ Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

### RECOGNITION OF MOTHERS

with the hymn "For All the Faithful Women" LSB 855

Ⓟ Since 1870, the second Sunday in May has been designated as a time to honor mothers in the United States. In more recent times, expressions of appreciation and honor have been extended to grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and all women whose contributions to the well-being of children have enriched society. Through the ages, many women have been remembered and honored by the Church. The hymn "For All the Faithful Women" celebrates Christian women throughout the centuries, thanking God for them.

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en Who served in days of old,  
 To You shall thanks be giv - en; To all, their sto - ry told.  
 They served with strength and glad - ness In tasks Your wis - dom gave.  
 To You their lives bore wit - ness, Pro - claimed Your pow'r to save.

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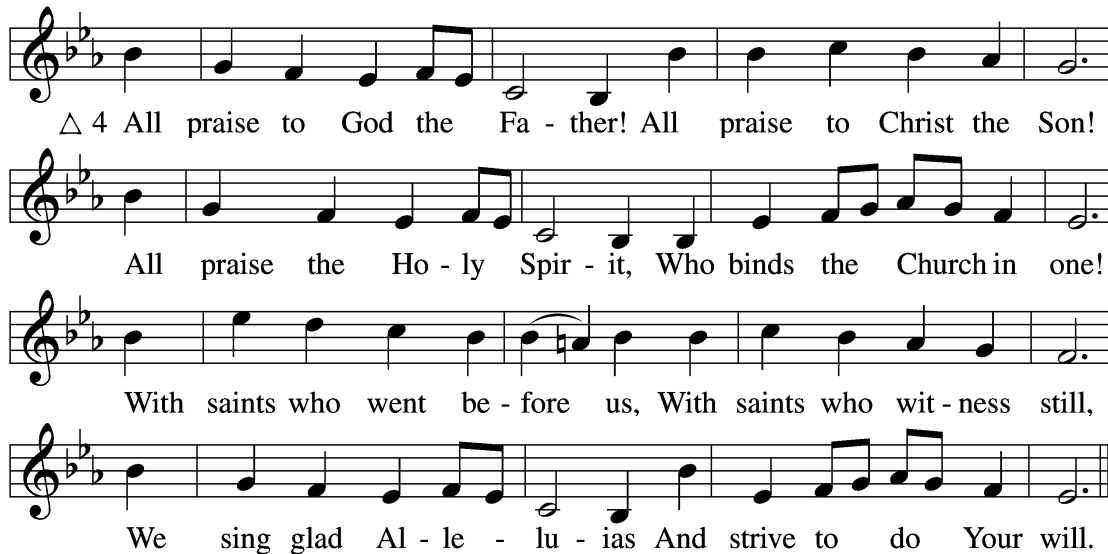
Ⓟ Several women commemorated in individual stanzas of "For All the Faithful Women" are honored for their examples of blessed motherhood. Among those are Hannah, from Old Testament times, and Eunice and Lois, mentioned in the New Testament writings of Paul. There is also a stanza for Mary, the mother of our Lord. Bringing the remembrance to present times, a new stanza honors mothers from all times and places as "gifts among us."



We thank You, Lord, for moth - ers Who  
 Your great kind - ness share Through lov - ing deeds for  
 oth - ers As em - blems of Your care. May  
 we true hon - or show them And joy - ful - ly ex -  
 press That they are gifts a -  
 mong us To cher - ish and to bless.

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- P** The final stanza of "For All the Faithful Women" is a doxology, most appropriate this day to glorify God as we express our thanks for the faithful women in our lives and in the ongoing life of the Church.



△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!  
 All praise the Ho - ly Spir - it, Who binds the Church in one!  
 With saints who went be - fore us, With saints who wit - ness still,  
 We sing glad Al - le - lu - ias And strive to do Your will.

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### 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.
- C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

"Oh, Blest The House" v.1-3,5 LSB 862



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
2 Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in  
3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol - ly  
hope and love a - bound; They trust their God and serve Him  
chil - dren's fore-most need And wea - ry not of care or  
prom - ise make and say: Though all the world for - sake His



His— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
still And do in all His ho - ly will!  
cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## 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](http://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!*

+ + +

### **ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE**

<b>Preacher &amp; Liturgist:</b>	Pastor Stephen Heimer
<b>Organist:</b>	David Garcia
<b>Elder:</b>	John Williamson
<b>Reader:</b>	Lydia Williams
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Haley Nathan
<b>Camera Operator:</b>	Jaden Heimer
<b>Sound Director:</b>	Brenna Rodriguez
<b>Offering Counter:</b>	Sharon Amastae

### **THIS WEEK AT ZION**

5/10	Monday	7:00 PM	Berea Bible Study
5/11	Tuesday	5:00 PM	Confirmation Class
		7:00 PM	Eastside Bible Study
5/13	Thursday	7:00 PM	"Acts" Bible Study
5/16	Sunday	9:15 AM	"Exodus" Bible Study
		10:30 AM	Worship Service



*"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." - Proverbs 31:28*

**Altar Flowers** today are given to the glory of God and in thanks for His countless blessings!

**Funeral Service for Bob Geyer.** In the early hours of Saturday, May 1st, our brother in Christ, Bob Geyer, passed away. The funeral service for Bob will be on Saturday, June 5, 2021. The time of the service has not yet been determined and will be in a future announcement.

**Quinceañera Service for Victoria Ochoa.** Join the Ochoa family in celebrating Victoria's quinceañera! The service will take place at 1:00pm on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at Zion Lutheran Church. All Zion family and friends are welcome!

**CPH Reads Summer Reading Program.** CPH Reads is a summer reading program through Concordia Publishing House. From June 1 to August 13, 2021, children of all ages can keep track of the books they read to earn points and possibly win prizes! If you would like some inspiration on what your children could read, you can find reading lists for all age ranges at [cph.org/reads](http://cph.org/reads). To find more information on CPH Reads, create a family account, and log your points, visit [cph.org/reads](http://cph.org/reads). If you would like a physical card to track your points, you can pick them up in the Zion office. If you log 1,000 points by August 13, your family will be entered to win an Amazon Fire HD Tablet!



**Offering Envelopes.** If you would like a box of weekly offering envelopes for 2021, please call Shirley Batts at (915) 497-2494 or the church office at (915) 566-4667.

### Interested in Volunteering?

Each week we aim to thoughtfully spread the Word of God and keep all members of our Zion family connected to our church. Our volunteer opportunities include:

- Updating our marquee sign with the weekly Bible verse
- Preparing candles for worship services
- Putting up the outdoor flags before worship services
- Designing posters and graphics
- Making trips to the post office
- Folding monthly newsletters
- And more!



No matter your skillset, we are happy to welcome anyone interested in stewardship opportunities at Zion. If you are interested, please call the church office at (915) 566-4667. You can also let us know in our worship service RSVP form, found on the weekly worship service post at [www.zionelpaso.org](http://www.zionelpaso.org). We would love to have you help in any way you can!

**This Week's Memory Verse: May 3-9, 2021**

This week's memory verse:

**"This is my commandment,  
that you love one another as  
I have loved you"**

**John 15:12**



**Zion Office Hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am—3:00pm

**Visit our website:** [zionelpaso.org](http://zionelpaso.org)

**Follow us on Facebook:** [facebook.com/zionlutheranelpaso/](https://facebook.com/zionlutheranelpaso/)



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