

# August 16, 2026 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are glad to be gathered with you. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please ask an usher to answer any questions you may have. Cameras are in use for livestreaming the worship service.

The altar flowers are given by Bill & Eleanor Kover in loving memory of Denise, Peter, Richard, Monique, Claude, and Robert Vaskelis.

Assisting Minister — Lou DiCriscio

Acolyte — Makayla Varela

Greeter — Cindy Rupprecht

Ushers — David Blackwood & John McAleer

Altar Guild — Cindy Rupprecht

Opening Hymn                      *"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*                      ELW 886

Hymn of the Day                  *"Healer of Our Every Ill"*                      ELW 612

Closing Hymn                      *"In Christ There Is No East or West"*                      ELW 650



## August 9th Attendance

9:30 a.m.

43



A Year of Growing in Faith: Excursion  
**WALK OUTSIDE WITH GOD**  
JESUS & NATURE

Youth and adults are welcome to join Pastor Kat in the Martin Luther Room following this morning's service for an exploration of how nature helps us grow closer to God. The final session of this series will be next Sunday, August 23rd.



**Back-to-School Sunday** is next week! At 9:30 a.m. worship, we will be blessing backpacks, commissioning our Sunday School volunteers, and presenting bibles to Sunday School students. On September 13th, we will officially kick off the Sunday School year with **Rally Day**. Classes will be held during 9:30 a.m. worship at the CEB, with children being dismissed to their classrooms following the Children's Time.



On Saturday, September 12th, the annual **5K Fun Run/Walk** to benefit the Good News Home for Women will be held at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers will be needed to make this event a success. Please see the sign-up link that was emailed from the Parish Office to find out how you can help.



## Let's Get to Know Zion's New Director of Music

We are excited to welcome BJ Kim and his family to Zion! BJ's first Sunday with us will be September 6th. For the next few weeks we'll be sharing a fun fact in the weekly bulletin to help us get to know a little bit about him before he arrives. Please see below for this week's fact.

**Coast-to-Coast Foodie Map:** The Kim family's journey in life and music has taken them from Seoul to NYC, Illinois, and now to New Jersey. Thanks to this, he has built a very personal, curated list of the best food spots across multiple states.

## Financial Summary YTD

### INCOME

\$236,153

### EXPENSES

-\$233,947

### DIFFERENCE

\$2,207



venmo

Scan the QR code to make a contribution to Zion via Venmo.



Tuesday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

### First Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,] <sup>1</sup> Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalmody: Psalm 133 (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> **It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

### Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

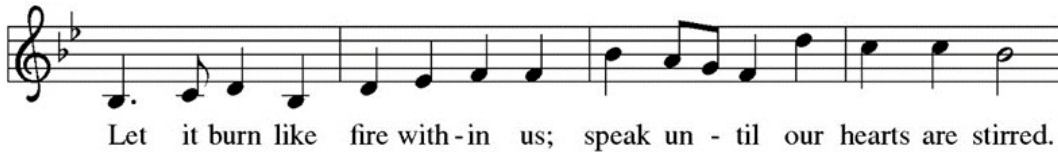
[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup> I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

<sup>10</sup> [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup> it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." <sup>12</sup> Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup> He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup> Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup> But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup> Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup> Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.