

Zion Lutheran Church The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
413 Avenue D East, Bismarck, North Dakota  
Website: [zionbismarck.org](http://zionbismarck.org)  
Email: [zionlcmbsbis@gmail.com](mailto:zionlcmbsbis@gmail.com)  
(701) 223-8286  
Find us on Facebook, search: *Zion Lutheran Church*  
The Rev. Thomas R. Marcis Jr. – Senior Vicar  
Ben Ramthun – Vicar  
Kristin Nistler – Director of Family Ministry

Liturgy: Vicar Ramthun  
Sermon: Vicar Marcis  
Organist: Evelyn Orth

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 18

Completely Dependent  
September 6, 2020 – 10:45 AM



### AS WE GATHER

“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus’ disciples asked. Our Lord responded by welcoming a child into His midst. “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Children are highly valued by our gracious God because they are completely dependent. On their own, they have nothing, yet they need everything. This is true for all of us in our relationship with God! On our own, we have only our sinful, broken lives and are unable to please God and fulfill His commands. Yet, in Jesus Christ, we possess everything we need! Forgiveness of sins and the guarantee of life forever with God are freely given to those who turn from their sin and receive the forgiveness earned by our crucified and risen Savior. In Jesus, we are, like children, completely dependent. We have nothing to offer, yet everything we need is ours to receive from the gracious hands of our Savior.

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### HYMN

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *LSB 686*

- 1 **Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.**
  
- 2 **Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I’ve come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand’ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.**
  
- 3 **Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I’m constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter  
Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.**

4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,  
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;  
Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry  
Me to realms of endless day. Text: Public domain

#### INVOCATION

Vicar: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: Amen.

#### OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 92:1–2*

Vicar: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
People: **to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**  
Vicar: to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,  
People: **and Your faithfulness by night.**  
Vicar: The Most High God gathers us to praise His name and declare His love together!

#### CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

*Psalm 32:1*

Vicar: Lord God, You promise grace and every blessing to all who come before You and repent of their sins. Hear us now as we, Your humble children, bring our prayers before You.

*In silent prayer, we confess our sins to the Lord, seeking His cleansing forgiveness.*

Vicar: Most merciful Father,  
People: **we come before You and admit our sinfulness. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to do what Your Word demands. We have not honored You fully with our lives, nor have we loved one another as You have first loved us. In the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Because our Savior humbled Himself for our sake upon the cross, enable us in true humility to receive the remission You promise to Your repentant children. Amen.**

Vicar: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

#### INTROIT

*Psalm 51:10–12*

Vicar: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
People: **and renew a right spirit within me.**  
Vicar: Cast me not away from Your presence,  
People: **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**  
Vicar: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
People: **and uphold me with a willing spirit. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

#### HYMN

“All Glory Be to God Alone” LSB 948

1 All glory be to God alone,  
Forevermore the highest one,  
Who did our sinful race befriend  
And grace and peace to us extend.

Among us may His gracious will  
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless  
And worship You in humbleness;  
From day to day we glorify  
The everlasting God on high.  
Of Your great glory do we sing,  
And to Your throne our thanks we bring.

3 Lord God, our King on heaven's throne,  
Our Father, the Almighty One.  
O Lord, the sole-begotten One,  
Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,  
True God from all eternity,  
O Lamb of God, to You we flee.

4 You take the whole world's sin away;  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.  
You take the whole world's sin away;  
O Lord, receive our prayer this day.  
From God's right hand Your mercy send,  
To all the world Your grace extend.

5 You only are the Holy One  
And over all are Lord alone.  
O Jesus Christ, we glorify  
You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;  
With Him You evermore shall be  
**One in the Father's majesty.** Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004275

#### SALUTATION

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: Let us pray. O God, our gracious and loving Father, we are Your dependent children. Although we in no way deserve Your goodness, You freely offer Your grace to all who turn to You.

People: **Grant us faith to trust in Your Son, who humbled Himself for our salvation.**

Vicar: We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Ezekiel 33:7-9*

(The watchman warns the wicked to turn from his way.)

"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL

*Psalm 34:9, 19 alt.*

Vicar: Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing!

**People: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

## EPISTLE

*Romans 13:1–10*

(Love is the fulfilling of the law.)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### VERSE

*Matthew 5:3*

Vicar: Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**People: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.**

Vicar: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 18:1–20*

(Jesus calls the children of God to humility and repentance.)

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save the lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“In Thee Is Gladness” *LSB* 818

1 In Thee is gladness  
Amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given  
The gifts of heaven,  
Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest,  
Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trusts Thee surely  
Has built securely;  
He stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining  
To see Thy shining,  
Dying or living  
To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

2 Since He is ours,  
We fear no powers,  
Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses  
In worst distresses;  
He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story  
Tell of His glory  
With hearts and voices;  
All heav'n rejoices  
In Him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness,  
Triumph o'er sadness,  
Love Him and praise Him  
And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia! Text: Public domain

### **SERMON**

“Faith Like A Child”  
Matthew 18:1-4

### **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.

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Vicar: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

### **OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

“Take My Life and Let It Be” Sts. 1, 4, 6: *LSB 783*

- 1 **Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
  
- 4 **Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose.**
  
- 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.** Text: Public domain

## LORD’S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

## BENEDICTION

*Psalm 92:1–2*

- Vicar: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
**People: to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**  
Vicar: to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,  
**People: and Your faithfulness by night.**  
Vicar: The Most High God now sends us out to praise His name and declare His love wherever we go!  
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. *Numbers 6:24–26*
- People: Amen.**

## HYMN

“Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go” *LSB 920*

- 1 **Forth in the peace of Christ we go;  
Christ to the world with joy we bring;  
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,  
Christ in our hearts, the world’s true king.**
  
- 2 **King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;  
Kingship with Him His servants gain;  
With Christ the Servant-Lord of all,  
Christ’s world we serve to share Christ’s reign.**
  
- 3 **Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth  
This world of time to consecrate,  
This world of sin by grace to heal,  
Christ’s world in Christ to re-create.**
  
- 4 **Christ’s are our lips, His Word we speak;  
Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim  
Christ’s truth in love that we may be  
Christ in the world, to spread Christ’s name.**
  
- 5 **We are the Church; Christ bids us show  
That in His Church all nations find  
Their hearth and home where Christ restores  
True peace, true love to all mankind.** Text: © 1969, 1987 OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004275