



**“IF YOUR BROTHER
OR SISTER SINS,
GO AND POINT OUT
THEIR FAULT,
JUST BETWEEN THE
TWO OF YOU.”**

MATTHEW 18:15, NIV



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14 / 17, 2023

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

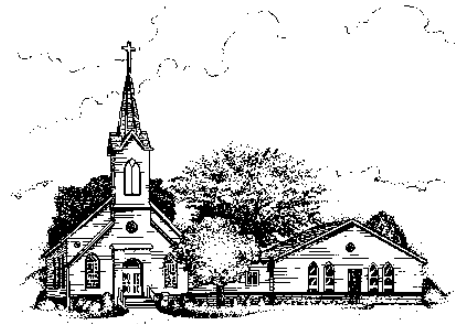
Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Steven D. Bode, pastor

6438 Hwy. D Allenton, WI

Church Office: 262-629-5914 / website: www.zionallenton.org

Pastor cell phone: 262-483-0407 / e-mail: revsdb@aol.com



Welcome to God's House

Imagine coming home late some night and you notice that the house across



the street is on fire. Everything inside is dark. You think to yourself, "Pounding on the door in the middle of the night might scare the family. I'm sure they'll realize what's going on eventually." Of course not! You would never

do that! To let a family sleep while flames surround them would be cruel. Your inaction would make you a killer. The truth is you would pound on their door no matter what time of the morning it is, screaming. You would throw a brick through their front window if that was what it took to warn them. You would not care if it scared the family. This is a matter of life and death! Love compels you to do whatever it takes.

God wants the people of his church to *be willing to say hard things* to people when that is what is necessary to save them from an even worse type of fire. Warning against sin is not easy. It upsets people, even offends them. But saying hard things is the loving thing to do when it is a matter of eternal life and death.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me #839

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;

let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure:
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress,
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the

Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

MUNICH CW #1039



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

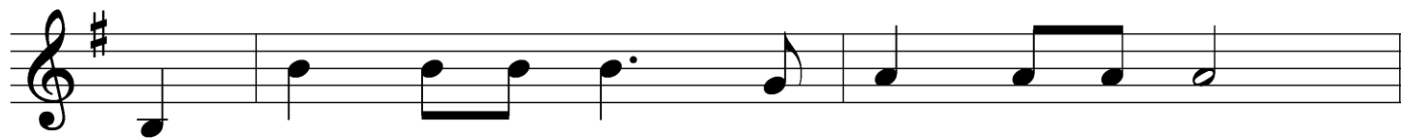
¹⁰“Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ ¹¹Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

O LORD, Hear My Prayer - Psalm #102C



1 O LORD, hear my prayer, O LORD, hear my prayer;
2 The LORD is my song, the LORD is my praise.



when I call, an - swer me. O LORD, hear my prayer, O
All my hope comes from God. The LORD is my song, the



LORD, hear my prayer; come and lis - ten to me.
LORD is my praise. God, the well-spring of life.

Second Reading

Galatians 2:11-16

¹¹ When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

¹⁵ "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too,

have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Timothy 2:4

Alleluia. God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 18:5-20

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

Jesus Sinners Does Receive #654:1-4, 7

1 Jesus sinners does receive;
oh, may all this saying ponder
who in sin's delusions live
and from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners does receive.

2 We deserve but grief and shame,
yet his words, rich grace revealing,
pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
here their ills have perfect healing
who with humble hearts believe:
Jesus sinners does receive.

3 Sheep that from the fold did stray
are not by the Lord forsaken;
weary souls who lost their way
are by Christ, the Shepherd, taken
in his arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners does receive.

4 I, a sinner, come to you
with a penitent confession.
Savior, show me mercy, too;
grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive,
even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave:
Jesus sinners does receive.

Sermon

Please stand

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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

Lord, you are our hiding place. You will protect us from trouble. Instruct us in the way we should go.

We confess our transgressions to the Lord, **and you forgive the guilt of our sin.**

Keep us watchful for ourselves. Turn us from evil and show us the path of life.

We confess our transgressions to the Lord, **and you forgive the guilt of our sin.**

Keep us watchful for others. Give us boldness and love to call others to repentance, that they turn to you and live.

We confess our transgressions to the Lord, **and you forgive the guilt of our sin.**

Bless all the watchmen of your people, pastors, elders and Christian friends. Give them wisdom, patience and persistence as they correct, gather and guide your people.

We confess our transgressions to the Lord, **and you forgive the guilt of our sin.**

Let your unfailing love surround those who suffer, [especially...]. Be their hiding place, protect them from trouble, and surround them with songs of deliverance.

We confess our transgressions to the Lord, **and you forgive the guilt of our sin.**

Silent prayers and special intercessions

Gracious and merciful God, forgive us all our sins and govern us, that we accept all faithful warnings and admonitions, and live to praise you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Hymn

Baptismal Waters Cover Me #657

1 Baptismal waters cover me
as I approach on bended knee;

my Father's mercy here I plead,
for grievous sins of thought and deed.

2 I look to Christ upon the tree,
his body broken there for me;
I lay before him all my sin,
my darkest secrets from within.

3 Lord, may your wounded hand impart
your healing to my broken heart;
your love alone can form in me
a heart that serves you joyfully.

4 From your own mouth comes forth a word;
your shepherd speaks, but you are heard;
through him your hand now stretches out,
forgiving sin, destroying doubt.

5 Baptismal waters cover me;
Christ's wounded hand has set me free.
Held in my Father's strong embrace,
with joy I praise him for his grace.

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

May the Peace of God #929



1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther,
2 May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,



and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,
and this grace which makes us what we are,



and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it
and this fel - low - ship of his com - mun - ion



keep our hearts and minds with - in his love.
make us one in spir - it and in heart.



And to him be praise for his glo - rious reign

from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.

We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain—

Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings.