

## **Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**

November 9 / 12, 2023

## Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

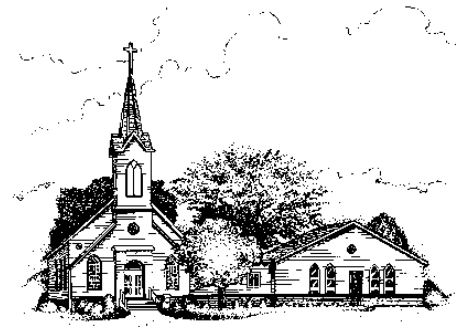
Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Steven D. Bode, pastor

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### Welcome to God's House

As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time in between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness. And so we pray, "Lord God, keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven."

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### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### Opening Hymn

#### Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers #493

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.

The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
go forth, as he approaches, with alleluias clear.

The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand.

You saints, who here in patience your cross and sufferings bore,  
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.

Around the throne of glory the Lamb you shall behold,  
in triumph lay before him your shining crowns of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free.

### **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 to God in the Highest**

**GALILEAN CW 1022**

Glory be to God in heaven, peace to those he loves so well.

On the earth let all his people speak his grace, his wonders tell:

Lord, we praise you for your glory, mighty Father, heaven's King;  
hear our joyful adoration and accept the thanks we bring.

Only Son of God the Father, Lamb who takes our sin away,  
now with him in triumph seated—for your mercy, Lord, we pray:  
Jesus Christ, most high and holy, Savior, you are God alone  
in the glory of the Father with the Spirit, Three in One!

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### First Reading

Isaiah 52:1-6

Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength!  
Put on your garments of splendor, Jerusalem, the holy city.  
The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again.  
<sup>2</sup> Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.  
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,  
    Daughter Zion, now a captive.  
<sup>3</sup> For this is what the Lord says:  
“You were sold for nothing,  
    and without money you will be redeemed.”  
<sup>4</sup> For this is what the Sovereign Lord says:  
“At first my people went down to Egypt to live;  
    lately, Assyria has oppressed them.

<sup>5</sup>“And now what do I have here?” declares the Lord.

“For my people have been taken away for nothing,  
and those who rule them mock,”

declares the Lord.

“And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore my people will know my name;  
therefore in that day they will know  
that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I.”

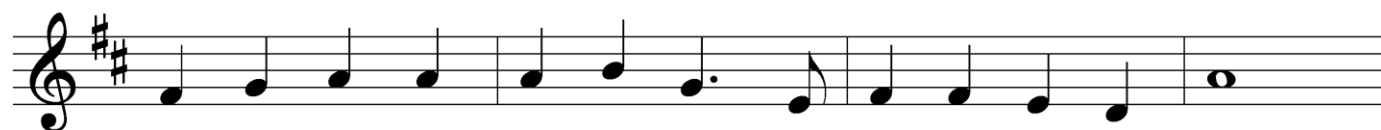
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

## Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord - Psalm 90A

### *Refrain*



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

### *Tone*

Lord, you have been our / dwelling place  
throughout all gener- / ations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the / whole world,  
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,

saying, “Return to dust, you / mortals.”

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just gone by,  
or like a watch / in the night. **Refrain**

Teach us to number / our days,

that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;

establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work / of  
our hands.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. **Refrain**

## **Second Reading**

## **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

<sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we

may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Matthew 24:42**

Alleluia. Therefore keep watch,  
**because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Alleluia.**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup> The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

<sup>7</sup> “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

<sup>9</sup> “No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

<sup>10</sup> “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’



<sup>12</sup> “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

<sup>13</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Hymn**

**Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying #486:1-2**

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,”  
the watchmen on the heights are crying;

“awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

Midnight hears the welcome voices  
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:

“Oh, where are all you virgins wise?

The Bridegroom comes, awake!

Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!

With bridal care yourselves prepare  
to meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
and all her heart with joy is springing;

she wakes, she rises from her gloom.

For her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
the strong in grace, in truth victorious;

her star is ris’n, her light is come.

Now come, O Blessèd One,

Christ Jesus, God’s own Son. Hail! Hosanna!

We enter all the marriage hall  
to eat the Supper at your call.

***Stay Awake for the Glory!***

*Please stand*

**The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayer of the Church**

Lord our God, teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom. May your favor rest on us, Lord. Have compassion on your servants. Equip us with your Word, that we may be armed and ready as we

live in this dark world until we receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Call people from the nations out of darkness into your wonderful light. In your grace, give them time that they may have opportunity to hear and believe your Word, be spared from judgment and enjoy your eternal kingdom.

On this Veterans Day weekend, we give thanks for those who have served their country and risked life and limb for the defense of its people. Thank you for protecting them while they served our nation and for maintaining the blessings of freedom and safety we still enjoy through their service.

You encourage us through Christian friends, your saints on earth. Move us to befriend one another with your love, to uplift those who are sad, to strengthen those who are weak, and to proclaim your grace to those who need hope.

As you strengthen us with your Word, you adorn us with faith, hope, and love. Strengthen the faith of those who suffer in mind or body, [especially...], that they may look to you with hope even in the darkest times and be assured of your constant love.

Listen, Lord, to the thoughts and cares of our hearts.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow*

Lord God, heavenly Father, guide our hearts by your power and protect us against false security and willful sins, that we wait for our heavenly bridegroom, Jesus Christ, in true faith, ready for him to take us into his heavenly wedding banquet; who lives and reigns, now and forever.

**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.*

## The Sacrament

### Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**AURELIA CW 1025**

♪ Sing, "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts on high,  
your everlasting glory fills earth and sea and sky."

Our voices cry, "Hosanna!" Lord, hear our humble plea:  
in mercy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.

Hosanna in the highest! How blest is Christ our King,  
who died as our Redeemer, eternal life to bring!  
How blest are you, Lord Jesus, now coming in God's name!  
"Hosanna in the highest!" our grateful hearts proclaim.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for

you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God**

**ST. CRISPIN CW 1013**

♪ O Lamb of God, once lifted high upon a cross to bleed and die,  
in perfect love you took our place—bestow on us your saving grace.

O Lamb of God, your sacrifice has cancelled sin, has paid its price;  
your perfect love will never cease—have mercy, Lord, and grant us peace.

**Distribution Hymn**

**Jesus Comes Today with Healing #668**

Jesus comes today with healing, knocking at my door, appealing,  
off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.

He himself makes preparation, and I hear his invitation:

“Come and taste the blessed feast.”

Christ himself, the priest presiding, yet in bread and wine abiding  
in this holy sacrament,  
gives the bread of life, once broken, and the cup, the precious token  
of his sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,  
blood and body, giv'n for me,  
very Lamb of God from heaven, who to bitter death was given,  
hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'nly power, gives himself to me this hour  
in this ordinary sign.

On my tongue his pledge receiving, I accept his grace, believing  
that I taste his love divine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor, whose own feast of love I savor,  
bidden by his gracious call.

Wedding garments he provides me, with a robe of white he hides me,  
fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation, comfort in my tribulation,  
balm to heal the troubled soul.

God, my shield from ev'ry terror, cleanses me from sin and error,  
makes my wounded spirit whole.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

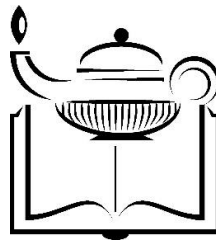
## Closing Hymn

## It Is Well with My Soul #850:1, 4

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll—  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

**Refrain:** *It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul. **Refrain**



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## **This Week at Zion**

- Today:** 7:30/9:45 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
8:30/8:45 a.m. Sunday School / Adult Bible class
- Mon:** 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting  
7:00 p.m. KML General Board meeting
- Wed:** 6:00 p.m. Catechism instructions
- Thu:** 7:00 p.m. Worship
- Fri:** 5:00 p.m. Volunteering at Lighthouse Youth Center,  
Milwaukee
- Sun:** 7:30/9:45 a.m. Worship  
8:30/8:45 a.m. Sunday School / Adult Bible class

**In Our Prayers** Rhea Schmidt, at Cedar Lake Rehab after being hospitalized this past week in Grafton; Tina Uelmen, at Aurora – Oshkosh after surgery to repair a broken ankle; and Linda Galler, recovering from elbow / arm surgery this past week.

**Lord's Supper** As a church concerned with upholding all the truths of Scripture and encouraging faithful Christian living, we practice “member communion” with those who have confessed a unity of faith with us. If you are not a WELS or ELS member and you would like to commune with us in the future, please speak to the pastor after the service.

**We thank** our organists this weekend: Jared Peterson on Thursday and Bea Pamperin on Sunday.

**Organ Dedication** If you read the newsletter, you know that we plan on having a special service to dedicate our new organ at the end of the month. Two weeks from today (Sunday), on November 26<sup>th</sup>, we'll formally dedicate our new organ to the service and glory of God. Former member Chris Joch will serve as our guest organist.

**Thanksgiving Worship** There are only 12 days until our national day of Thanksgiving. We'll also take some time as a church family to thank and praise our God who provides us with all we need. Thanksgiving Eve worship is at 7 p.m., Thanksgiving Day worship is at 9 a.m. Mark your calendars!

**Wreaths Across America** If you would like to purchase a wreath in memory / honor of a family member or friend who served in the Armed Forces of our country, pick up a sheet from the bulletin board, fill it out and follow the directions.

**Sign Up as a Greeter** The greeter signup link for December – February is active and ready to be used. Please consider serving in this way. Go to [www.zionallenton.org](http://www.zionallenton.org) and click on the link to sign up.

**Better Communication** If you have not received an e-mail or text from our secretary Janet, please call/text her at 262.338.7946 to give her your contact information. From time to time we would like to send out important announcements such as funeral announcements, church closings / cancellations, etc... Thank you for helping us keep our records updated so we can keep in touch with our members.

**Lighthouse Youth Center** Please consider signing up to provide one of the items needed for providing supper for the young people down at Lighthouse Youth Center in Milwaukee this Friday...we still need lots of donations!

**Deerhunter Service** We're in the middle of hunting season right now and if you have plans to be in the woods on Sunday mornings, don't forget our year 'round Thursday services at 7 p.m. each Thursday.

**Bible Study** Our Sunday morning Bible study has been taking a look at what it means to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." This week we'll discuss how we can get tough with temptation.

**Food Drive** God calls us to “*serve one another in love*” (Galatians 5:13). One way to do that is by contributing to our fall food drive. There’s only two more weeks for our annual fall food drive to benefit the Kewaskum Food Pantry. The collection can is on the pedestal near the doors coming into the church.

**Christmas Preparation** Please join us on the following Advent / Christmas-related dates:

- **Sunday School Practice** Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, is the first Sunday School Christmas practice. We’ll be meeting Saturday mornings until Christmas from 9 – 10:30 a.m. to prepare for the Christmas Eve service. Please make every effort to bring your child(ren) for each practice. Thank you!
- **Church Decorating** We will be decorating the church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, right after the late service.
- **Advent Supper and Service** December 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6 p.m. with supper and 7 p.m. for the special Advent worship service.
- **Advent by Candlelight** Ladies of Zion are invited to a special evening on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at church.

**Pick up a November** copy of the *Forward in Christ* from the cabinets in the entryway, along with the new church calendar and newsletter. Read the cover story and rejoice with a wife who after years of praying sees God’s perfect timing in the baptism of her husband. Also...discover the secret of being content. *Hint:* It’s not in what you have.

**Offering Envelopes** You will find your 2024 offering envelopes on the tables in the fellowship hall. They’re in numerical order. A cross-reference sheet is there if you forgot your number. Remember also that even if you are contributing through direct deposit you will have an envelope box. Please pick yours up today. If you have any questions, call our financial secretary Rick Meier at 262.909.1069 or text [rrrick4919@yahoo.com](mailto:rrrick4919@yahoo.com).

## Shoulder to Shoulder in Service

The phrase “shoulder to shoulder” presents a number of memories for our Nation’s Veterans and their Families. It is graduation day from basic training, loved ones huddled on bleachers as they watch their son or daughter march by in formation. It is those days in the Red Zone conducting operations with fellow brothers and sisters-in-arms in sweltering heat and sandstorms. It is at the foot of a battlefield cross with Taps heard nearby, as loved ones look on. It is the kiss from a spouse at a promotion ceremony or return from a deployment. In these and other memories, the common thought is that we are standing “shoulder to shoulder” with those whom steel bonds of trust have been forged.



Shoulder to Shoulder in Service is appropriately Lutheran Military Support Group’s tagline. We are two sisters standing near their aircraft. We are a 105-year-old WWII Army Lieutenant sitting next to a retired Navy Master Chief. We are Christian Warriors at a Spiritual Retreat worshipping our Savior together despite the trauma in our lives. We are WELS and ELS congregations and schools encouraging the Warriors in our communities at Veteran’s Day ceremonies. Together, we stand Shoulder to Shoulder in Service to support, encourage, and walk alongside our Christian Warriors, Veterans, and their Families.

This Veteran’s Day, we pause to honor and thank those who have served our Nation’s Flag in the US Armed Forces. We thank them for their service and sacrifice to protect the freedoms that we are privileged to enjoy. Our Veterans leave a legacy for us to uphold and continue, as we stand “shoulder to shoulder” with them in our communities.

May God continue to bless our Nation and her Warriors. May He give them the resolve and strength to do their tasks according to His good and perfect will.

He Reigns,  
Brad Price, LMSG President & CEO