



**“His master replied,
‘Well done, good and faithful servant!
You have been faithful with a few things;
I will put you in charge of many things.
Come and share your master’s happiness!’”**

Matthew 25:23, NIV

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 16 / 19, 2023

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

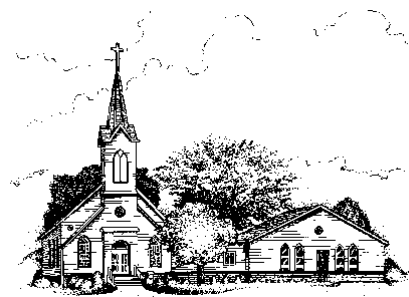
Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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Welcome to God's House

As we wait for Christ to return, we are not to be idle. The reason Christ has not yet returned is that there is still work to be done. And Christ carries out his good work through us, his Church. So, until Christ comes again and says, "Stop!" believers will be busy with faithful service. Christ has given every believer gifts and talents. And when Christ entrusts us with those gifts and talents, he calls us to use them all for his glory.

In the time between Christ's first and second coming, we use everything the master has given us to live according to his will and to carry out his mission.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly #748

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly give to God our all, our best:
service hearty, thorough, honest, with a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving, all our time to him belong;
praise him, then, with true devotion, come before him with a song.

By his mercy, by his bounty, by the gift of Christ, his Son,
what great goodness he has shown us, what high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely, yield our bodies and our souls,
thankful that his love protects us, that his wisdom all controls.

Gracious Lord, accept our service for the sake of Christ, your Son;
lo, our hope abides now only in the righteousness he won.

Bless and save us, help and guide us, watch to comfort and restore,
till in heav'n we rest rejoicing, praising you forevermore.

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.

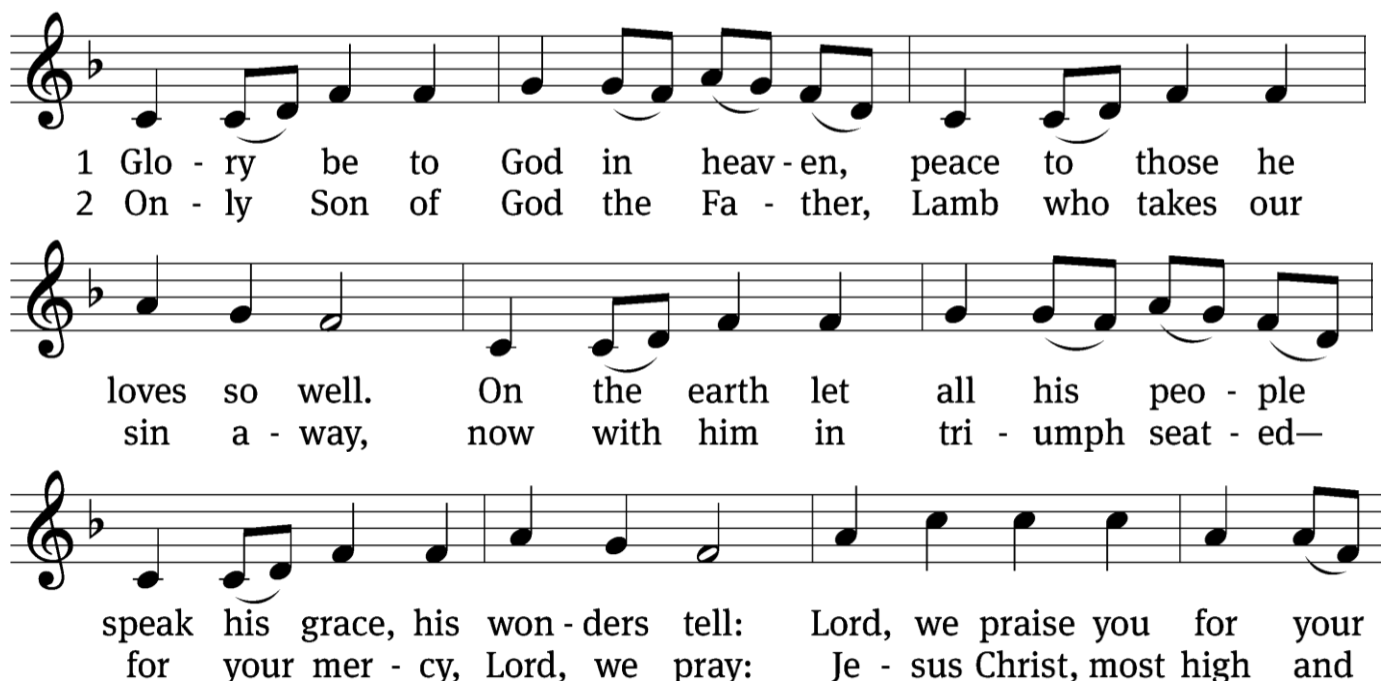
Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Gloria

HOLY MANNA CW 1005



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our
loves so well. On the earth let all his peo - ple
sin a - way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed—
speak his grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your
for your mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and

glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our joy - ful
 ho - ly, Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the glo - ry
 ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
 of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; 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 1:10-18

° Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom;
 listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹ “The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?” says the Lord.
“I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals;

I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

¹² When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?

¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—

I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.

¹⁴ Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being.

They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

¹⁶ Wash and make yourselves clean.

Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.

¹⁷ Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

¹⁸ “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord.

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Blest Are Those Who Love You Psalm 128C

Refrain



Blest are those who love you, hap - py those who
fol - low you, blest are those who seek you, O God.

Tone



Blessed are all who / fear the Lord,
who walk in obedi- / ence to him.
You will eat the fruit of your / labor;
blessings and prosperity / will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with- / in your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your / table. **Refrain**

Yes, this will be the / blessing
for the man who / fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from / Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days / of your life.
May you live to see your children's / children—
peace be on / Israel.
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

Romans 12:1-8

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 2:10

Alleluia. Be faithful, even to the point of death,
and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his

ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made #751

O God, your hand the heavens made and all that they contain;
the world appeared at your command, and in it now you reign.
The restless sea, the land, the sky your handiwork declare;
the touch of your creative pow'r is present ev'rywhere.

To us are given gifts divine, all talents you have sent;
inspire us now to use them well your kingdom to extend.
We hold each gift a trust from you nor claim it as our own;
we gratefully acknowledge, Lord, all things are yours alone.

Deliver us from selfish aims, true stewards we would be;
endow us with a deep desire to live unselfishly.
A full accounting we must give and see you face to face;
let us approach your throne with joy, supported by your grace.

Sermon

Matthew 25:14-30

Be Faithful with the Things God has Given You
whether little or much.... to serve God and others

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.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Lord, you are a great God, the great King above all gods.

We are the people of your pasture. We are the flock under your care.

As the end of all things draws near, fill our hearts with hope that we will be with you forever.

We are the people of your pasture. We are the flock under your care.

While you give the world time, let your Word of grace spread, that many more may hear your call from darkness to light, and in the end, receive the inheritance you have prepared since the creation of the world.

We are the people of your pasture. We are the flock under your care.

You do much work through the hands of your servants on earth. Give love, guidance and strength to doctors, nurses, chaplains, pastors, and all who care for the sick in body and spirit.

We are the people of your pasture. We are the flock under your care.

Use us to give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, comfort to the sick. Have mercy on those who suffer, [especially...], for you are the Rock of our salvation.

We are the people of your pasture. We are the flock under your care.

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

Silent prayer and special intercessions

Faithful and gracious God, help us use all our gifts to serve, comfort and help our neighbors. Strengthen us so that we may be good and faithful servants, and finally enter the kingdom prepared for us; 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

Lord, You Called Us as Your People #736

Lord, you call us as your people, out of darkness into light.
You created and redeemed us, made us precious in your sight.
Give us faith to trust you boldly and to love you steadfastly.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord, you call us as disciples, walking on your pilgrim way.
Crucified and risen Savior, you are with us ev'ry day.
Give us wisdom, give us courage as you teach us patiently.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord, you send us to the harvest in your Great Commission's call,
reaching out to all the nations, bringing life and hope to all.
Give us boldness and compassion, bless us with your eyes to see.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord, you call us to new ventures by a pathway yet unknown.
Though we cannot see the ending, we will follow you alone.
Knowing that your hand is guiding and you love us faithfully,
by your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord, you call us as your people, now in faith we sing your praise:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, alleluias to you raise.
Hold us in your gracious power, blessed Holy Trinity,
that rejoicing we will ever faithful to our callings be.

Closing Prayer

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service #766:1, 3, 4

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed,

we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift that you impart.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

Sent from worship as your servants, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

This Week at Zion

- Today:** 7:30/9:45 a.m. Worship
8:30/8:45 a.m. Sunday School / Adult Bible class
- Tue:** 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Aid Meeting
- Wed:** 2:30 p.m. KM Gardens Devotion, Kewaskum
7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship
- Thu:** 9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Worship
- Sun:** 8:30/8:45 a.m. Sunday School / Adult Bible class 8:30 a.m.
9:45 a.m. **Worship (organ dedication) with Holy Communion**
2:00 p.m. Lutheran Chorale Christmas concert at St. John's, Wauwatosa

In Our Prayers Patti Richards, awaiting surgery for a broken collarbone;
Calvin Eichsteadt, hospitalized at St. Agnes, Fond du Lac; Rhea Schmidt at
Cedar Lake in West Bend; Tina Uelmen at Mercy Medical in Oshkosh;

Shirley Schlice (Bonnie Herman's mother) who experienced a stroke and is hospitalized at Froedtert-West Bend.

We thank Mr. Andrew Carter for leading us in worship this weekend. Andrew is in his final year at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, having spent last year in Brookings, South Dakota at Our Savior Lutheran for his intern (vicar) year. Not only did he get a year of experience in Brookings, he also met his fiance' there. They will be married this summer in July.

Thanksgiving Worship Join us this week as we 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.

Organ Installation Next Sunday, November 26th, we'll have a special service to dedicate our new organ to the service and glory of God. Please note we'll only have **one service that day at 9:45 a.m.** Former member Chris Joch will serve as our guest organist. Sunday School and Bible study will remain the same. Join us for this special day!

Church Directory We're planning to print a church directory with contact information for our members (no photos planned). If you would *not* like your contact information included, please contact our church secretary, Janet Salzman, at 262.338.7946.

Advent by Candlelight All ladies (and friends) of Zion are invited to join us for this year's Advent by Candlelight. The program, "The King Shall Come," will be December 10th beginning at 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Sign up on the bulletin board. If you are interested in hosting a table, please contact Elaine Schulz.

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 stand near the church entrance, 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 and click on the link to sign up.

Last Chance 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. This is the last week we’ll be collecting contributions to benefit the Kewaskum Food Pantry. The collection can is on the pedestal near the doors coming into the church.

Pick up a new *Meditations* devotional (they start two weeks from today – December 3rd). There are still a few copies of the *Forward in Christ* (the cover article is one of several excellent ones) available on the cabinets.

Prelude to Christmas Concert An annual favorite, *Prelude to Christmas* is a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas concert season. The Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee will sing old favorites as well as several new arrangements of familiar Christmas carols. The concert will take place at St. John’s Lutheran in Wauwatosa next Sunday, November 26, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

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128C Blest Are Those Who Love You Psalm 128C

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751 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made CW 751

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736 Lord, You Call Us As Your People CW 736

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