



Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS
20-141 County Road X – P.O. Box 37 – Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: zionco@bright.net
Education Hour 8:45 AM - Divine Worship 10:00 AM
Communion First and Third Sundays
Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr, Pastor
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: pastor.zionco@bright.net

Sunday, November 22nd, 2020
The Last Sunday of the Church Year

Prelude
Tower Bells and Welcome
Announcements and
“Pastor’s Thoughts”

Visitors are encouraged to note their attendance by filling out the “Welcome” side (blue print) of the pew cards and putting the card into the offering plate near the entrance doors.

Worship Notes: Face covering must be used at all times. The congregation is invited to speak and sing the parts in bold type through a face covering.

From Pastor Rockrohr: “Pastor’s Thoughts” at the time of Announcements before the service will be a time for me to speak on a couple of topics before worship begins. This time of Covid 19 is proving difficult to communicate in a way that stays up to date with certain topics and concerns. So I will speak no longer than 15 minutes at this time on a couple of topics. The intention is that the entire worship will still close by 11 am.

As a father, especially on the mission field in Africa in 1993-98, every so often I called a “Family Meeting” to share with every member of the family certain situations we faced and what I thought we needed to do or adjust for the family to move ahead well. I had these meeting not because anyone was “in trouble”, but rather to help the family all pull together as best as we could. A congregation is more like a family than a corporation (1 Timothy 5:1), so if you like you can think of this time as a “Family Meeting” except that we don’t have time for everyone to share or ask questions. But I encourage feedback! Please write me a note with any question or concern.

Opening Hymn

Jerusalem the Golden

LSB 672

1 Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest--
The promise of salvation,
The place of peace and rest--
We know not, oh, we know not
What joys await us there;
The radiancy of glory,
The bliss beyond compare!

2 Within those halls of Zion
Sounds forth the joyful song,
As saints join with the angels
and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever with them;
The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessed
Shines bright with glorious sheen.

3 Around the throne of David,
The saints, from care released,
Raise loud their songs of triumph
To celebrate the feast.
They sing to Christ their leader,
Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever
Their gleaming robes of white.

(Stand) 4 O sweet and blessed country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country
That faithful hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us
To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father
And Spirit, ever blest.

Confession and Absolution (*Congregation Stands*)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake He forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 70

1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

3 For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

7 For he is our God,
**and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

All: Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (*Congregation sits*)

11 “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice...

20 “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, 22 I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all

things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31-46 (*Stand*)

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead

LSB 749

(*Refrain*) There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.

2 If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus
And say He died for all. (*Refrain*)

1 Sometimes I feel discouraged
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again. (*Refrain*)

3 Don't ever feel discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend;
And if you lack for knowledge,
He'll ne'er refuse to lend. (*Refrain*)

Sermon "The Journey to God's Country" Ezekiel 34

Apostles' Creed (*Congregation stands*)

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 Zion Lutheran Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

For the faithful proclamation of Christ, our King, and for the strengthening of God's people in this true faith and their baptismal life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christ's holy, catholic and apostolic Church; for all who faithfully confess the saving name of Christ; and for the protection of the Lord to extend over us against the devil, the world and our own sinful selves, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For God's people in this place, for the mission and work God has given us to do, and for the unity of the Spirit and a spirit of cooperation and harmony in our life together, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have wandered from the flock of God, for the faithful shepherds who gather them in through the voice of God's Word, for our forgiveness, and for our willingness to forgive others in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our president and governor, and all in authority over us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all artists and artisans; for science and invention; for those who serve us in the medical arts; for tradespeople; for students and teachers; for food producers and retail workers; and for those who serve and protect us as police, firefighters and military personnel and for the chaplains who serve them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the hungry and homeless, for the unemployed and underemployed, for those who work in disaster relief, and for the social-service agencies of our church, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For a giving spirit, that we may not neglect the poor nor fail to provide resources to the Church to fulfill the Lord's bidding and spread the Gospel to every place, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in long-term health care facilities and their care providers; for those afflicted by illness of body or mind and for those who care for them, [*especially _____,*] that with God's strength they may kept through patience and delivered to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ + +

Please contact Pastor Rockrohr for changes to the prayer list.

Martin Luther's Morning Prayer

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction for the Service of the Word

O Lord, hear my prayer. **And let my cry come to You.**
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

1 Thine the amen Thine the praise
 Alleluias angels raise
 Thine the everlasting head
 Thine the breaking of the bread
 Thine the glory Thine the story
 Thine the harvest then the cup
 Thine the vineyard then the cup is
 lifted up lifted up.

2 Thine the life eternally
 Thine the promise let there be
 Thine the vision Thine the tree
 All the earth on bended knee
 Gone the nailing gone the railing
 Gone the pleading gone the cry
 Gone the sighing gone the dying
 What was loss lifted high.

3 Thine the truly Thine the yes
 Thine the table we the guest
 Thine the mercy all from Thee
 Thine the glory yet to be
 Then the ringing and the singing
 Then the end of all the war
 Thine the living Thine the loving
 Evermore evermore.

4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
 Thine the wonder full surprise
 Thine the banquet then the praise
 Then the justice of Thy ways
 Thine the glory Thine the story
 Then the welcome to the least
 Then the wonder all increasing
 At Thy feast at Thy feast

5 Thine the glory in the night
 No more dying only light
 Thine the river Thine the tree
 Then the lamb eternally
 Then the holy holy holy
 Celebration jubilee
 Thine the splendor Thine the brightness
 Only Thee only Thee

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

Acknowledgments. Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Zion Lutheran Prayer adapted from LC-MS Three-Year Series Prayers - <https://www.lcms.org/worship/three-year-series-prayers>

Sermon “The Journey to God’s Country” Ezekiel 34 and Matthew 25

1. God gathers here and there, high and low.
2. God shows the only way – through Jesus.
3. Each day, along the way, we call others to join and care for each other.
4. God’s promise every day of the journey: “And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.” (Ezekiel: 34:24)