

**Zion Lutheran Church
Glen Rock, PA
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
WOV Setting Five – Bread of Life
Sunday, September 20, 2026**

*We stand as we are able.

Introduction to the day

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (WOV p.10)**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***ENTRANCE HYMN: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LBW (green) 543**

*APOSTOLIC GREETING (WOV p.28)

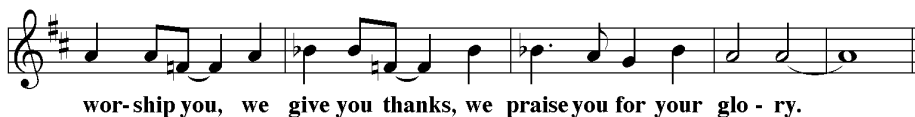
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

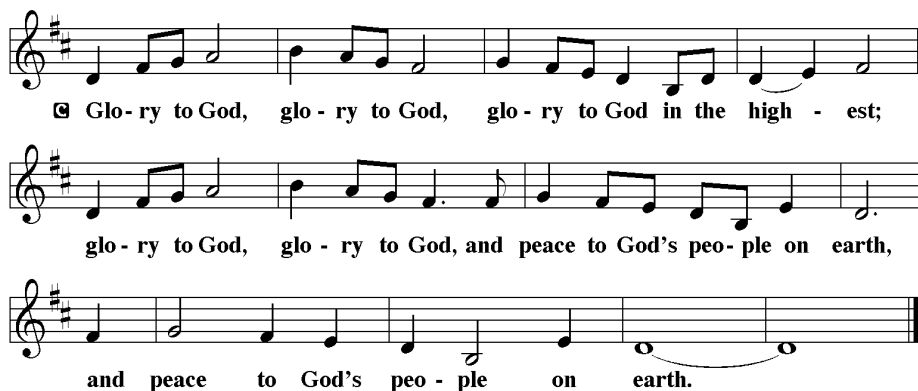
*KYRIE (WOV p.28)



*HYMN OF PRAISE (WOV p.29)







***PRAYER OF THE DAY (WOV p.30)**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Children's church dismissal: All children are invited to the Nursery at this time.

FIRST LESSON: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy

about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, O ¹ God my King,
and bless your name forev- ¹ er and ever.

² **Every day ¹ will I bless you**
and praise your name forev- ¹ er and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised;
there is no end ¹ to his greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works ¹ to another**
and shall de- ¹ clare your power.

⁵ I will ponder the glorious splendor ¹ of your majesty
and all your ¹ marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall speak of the might of your ¹ wondrous acts,**
and I will tell ¹ of your greatness.

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of ¹ your great goodness;
they shall sing of your ¹ righteous deeds.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,**
slow to anger and ¹ of great kindness.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:21-30

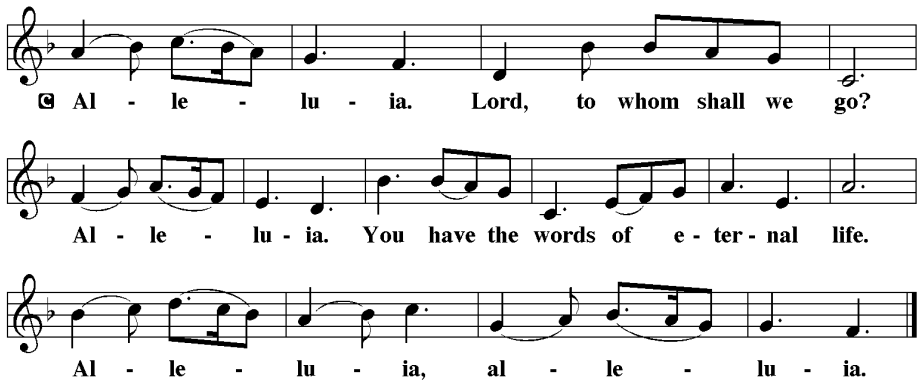
²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am

convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p.31)**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others

standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’
⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’
⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’
⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius.
¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.
¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,
¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’
¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’
¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.
¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’
¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”

LBW 381

***APOSTLES’ CREED** (WOV p.32)

With the whole church, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (WOV p.34)**

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

***PEACE (WOV p. 34)**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE (WOV p.35)**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER (WOV p.35)**

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

***GREAT THANKSGIVING (WOV p.36)**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

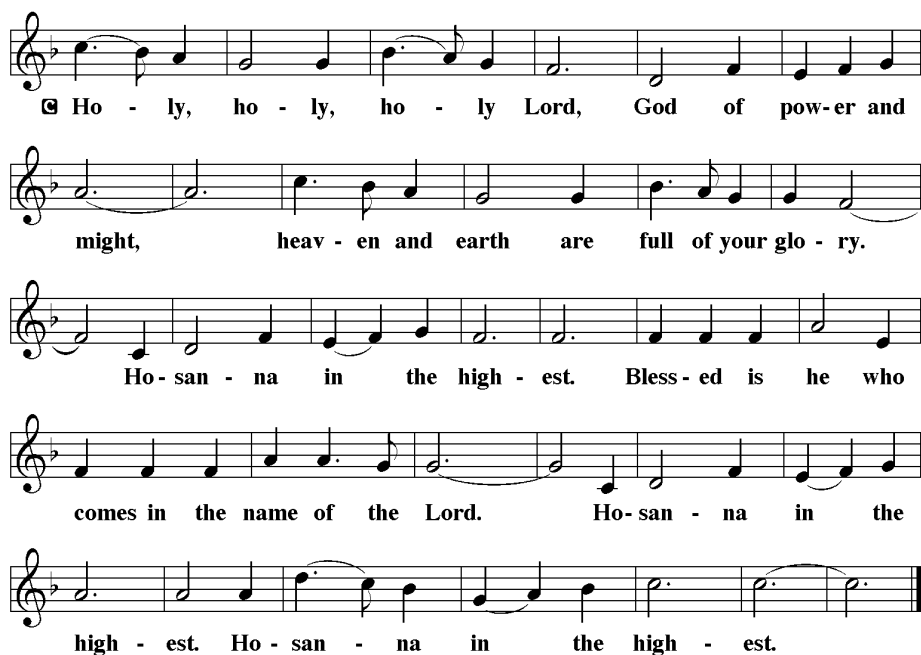
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE (WOV p.36)**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING (WOV p.37)**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p.39)**

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**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.**

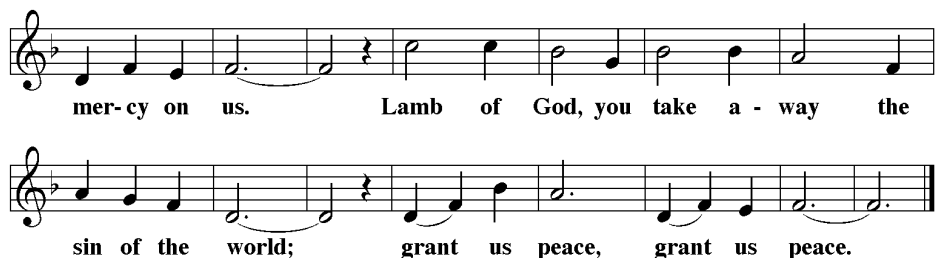
***COMMUNION HYMN (WOV p.39)**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



COMMUNION (WOV p.39)

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND CANTICLE (WOV p.40)**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**



***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (WOV p.41)**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

Amen.

***BLESSING (WOV p.41)**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

***SENDING HYMN: "Lord of All Hopefulness"**

LBW (green) 469

DISMISSAL (WOV p.41)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today's communion elements are presented to the glory of God.

Today's high altar flowers are presented by Shirley Seitz, in honor of Joan, Gail, and Shirley's birthdays.

SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 9/27/2026

Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32, Ps 25:1-9, Phil 2:1-13, Matt 21:23-32

PRAYER REQUESTS

Dottie Devlin, Edna Garver, Dolly Fletcher, Tom Bailey,
Mary Rose Lawhead, Barbara Townley, Barry Keller, Susan Scheungrab,
Shirley Seitz, Donna Chandler, Keith Copenhagen, James Thompson,
Joann King, Trey Tomaschko, Lou Tomaschko, Beth Hennessey,
Suzanne Becker, Chad Smith, Tim Myers, Bonni Whitman, Sandy Fair

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Zion! We are glad you are here today. After worship, you are invited to a time of fellowship with coffee and snacks in the social hall directly beside the sanctuary.

Communion is offered every Sunday. Wine and apple juice are both available. All are welcome.

Today we welcome Rev. Peter Rustico to lead us in worship.

The Nursery is available for children 5 years and under. Kelley Fisher can be contacted regarding Children’s Church at kelleyfish23@gmail.com or 410-598-0586.

The Loose Change offering plate is available every Sunday. At the end of the month, the total collected for that month will be sent to the chosen organization. **Our loose change collection for September will benefit Glen Rock Emergency Medical Services.**

Services are recorded and streamed live each week on Zion Lutheran Church’s Facebook page. It is possible during the recording that people attending the service will be filmed. If you have any concerns about being filmed, please contact the office at 717-235-3276.

Announcements for the weekly bulletin are due to the office by early Tuesday morning so bulletin work can be completed by the end of the day on Tuesday. This schedule allows time for the bulletin to be sent to the presiding pastor for the upcoming week and allows the website committee time to post the bulletin on Zion’s website. Announcements can be emailed to Brenda at office@zionglenrock.org.

PERSONNEL at ZION

- Darryl Engler, Organist
- Brenda Davis, Administrative Assistant
- Kelley Fisher, Treasurer
- Chad Fisher, Sexton
- Donna Price, Council President.....momcat05@gmail.com or 410-746-3535
- Rick Freda, Council Vice President.....rickfreda@yahoo.com or 302-864-5700

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom Bailey, Jeff Brown, Rick Freda, Jeff Hoffman, Gail Prego, Donna Price, and Jen Webb

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Supply Pastors:

September 20: Rev. Peter Rustico
September 27: Rev. John Teitman
October 4: Rev. Peter Rustico
October 11: Rev. Paul Haack
October 18: TBD
October 25: Rev. Gail Wolling

Assisting Ministers:

September 20: Donna Price
September 27: George Brown
October 4: Jeff Brown
October 11: Jeff Hoffman
October 18: Butch Hengst
October 25: Diane Bortner

Lectors:

September 20: Donna Price
September 27: Jen Webb
October 4: Kayla/Nate Rogers
October 11: Chad Fisher
October 18: Rachel Foltz
October 25: Susie Hengst

Council Offering Duty:

September – Tom Bailey and Jen Webb
October – Jeff Brown and Donna Price

Altar Care:

September – Donna Price
October – Linda Beegle



Zion Lutheran Church

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