

August 27, 2023



with y
rebels agai
obeys your words, whatever you command
him, shall be out to death. "Only be strong
and courageous."

Rahab Hides the Spies

2 And Joshua the son of Nun ^xsent¹ two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of ^ya prostitute whose name was ^zRahab and lodged there. ²And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land. When the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, 'Men who have come to you, where do they come from?' she said, 'They have come to my house, for they have come



MT. ZION

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13th Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Lord God, heavenly Father, we ask You, graciously abide among us with Your blessing, and keep us from covetousness and the cares of this life, that we may seek first Your kingdom and righteousness, and in all things needful for body and soul, provide Your ever-present help; through Jesus Christ, Amen.*

Today's Worship!

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 875 *Father, We Praise Thee*

1 *Father, we praise Thee, now the night is over,
Active and watchful, stand we all before Thee;
Singing, we offer prayer and meditation: Thus we adore Thee.*

2 *Monarch of all things, fit us for Thy mansions;
Banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
Bring us to heaven, where Thy saints united Joy without ending.*

3 *All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us Thy salvation;
Thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding Through all creation.*

The Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

C Amen!

The Confession and Absolution of Sins

We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.

P Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant forgiveness:

C Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie – Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – Latin for “Glory in the Highest (to God).” A hymn glorifying and praising our God.

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to all peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heav-enly king, al-might-y God and
Fa-ther: We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we
praise You for Your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus
Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God: You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the

Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For You alone are the
 Ho-ly One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the
 Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the
 glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

The Prayer for the Day

The main thoughts for the day are collected together in this prayer.

- P** Let us pray. . . through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

The Epistle Reading: *Romans 11:13-15, 28-32*

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?... ²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 133-134*

- P** Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
- C** It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!



P It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

C Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

P Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD!

C May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!

The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 15:21-28*

And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

The Apostles' Creed

We boldly confess what we believe.

C 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.

Hymn 653 *In Christ There is No East or West*

***1 In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love Throughout the whole wide earth.***

***2 With God there is no tribe or race; In Him we all are one.
He loves us as His children through Our faith in His dear Son.***

***3 So, brothers sisters, praise His name Who died to set us free
From sin, division, hate, and shame, From spite and enmity!***

***4 Join hands, disciples of the faith, Whate'er your race may be.
Who serves my Father as His son Is surely kin to me.***

***5 In Christ now meet both east and west; In Him meet south and north;
All Christian souls are one in Him Throughout the whole wide earth.***

The Sermon: *Joshua 2:1-21*

And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. ² And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." ³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." ⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from." ⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." ⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. ⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof ⁹ and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is

God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." ¹⁴ And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. ¹⁶ And she said to them, "Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way." ¹⁷ The men said to her, "We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. ¹⁸ Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. ¹⁹ Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. ²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear." ²¹ And she said, "According to your words, so be it." Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

Theme: GOD’S GRACE RUNS RED

I. For the scarlet woman. II. For us all.

The Offertory

Having heard God’s Word, we pray for spiritual healing through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
 Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -
 va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Hymn 855 *For All the Faithful Women*

- 1** *For all the faithful women Who served in days of old
To you shall thanks be given, To all their story told.
They served with strength and gladness In tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, Proclaimed your power to save."*
- 2** *We praise You, Lord, for Rahab, Who turned from sinful ways,
To help Your people Isra'el, To trust Your name to praise!
Grant us her faith and service, And help us e'er to see,
Your loving grace and purpose, To save and set us free!*
- 3** *O God, for saints and servants, Those named and those unknown
In whom through all the ages Your light of glory shone,
We offer glad thanksgiving And fervent prayer we raise
That faithful in Your service, Our lives may sing Your praise.*
- 4** *All praise to God the Father! All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise the Holy Spirit, Who binds the Church in one!
With saints who went before us, With saints who witness still,
We sing glad alleluias And strive to do Your will.*

The Offering of Thankful Hearts

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. If you wish to give your church offering electronically, you can do so by using the CashApp on your mobile device. The church's Scashtag is "Scslcmztion". While the usher brings the offering plate forward we sing the following hymn verse

*(WS 788:1): Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true
That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.*

Prayer of the Church – The Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.

The Benediction

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

Closing Hymn 851:4 *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

- 4** *Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

WELCOME EVERYONE! We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe and teach. Where and when? Your convenience.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY: Last Sunday the congregation was given the opportunity to view a new potential church property located at 24450 Evergreen, Southfield. In accordance with our procedure for leasing a new building, immediately after today's service we will hold a special congregational meeting to discuss the building. If there is enough interest, President Carl Ryan will call for the immediate resumption of the recessed "Property Selection Voters Meeting" to vote on whether or not to sign a lease at this building. Please attend if you are able, and keep this important matter in your prayers.

BIBLE CLASS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL (PreK-Kind) will resume Sunday, September 10 at 9am. In Bible Class we'll be picking up our study of the Gospel of John.

MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

Today	11am	Congregational Meeting to discuss the potential new church building at 24450 Evergreen, Southfield
Sun. 9/3	10am	Divine Worship Service
Fri. 9/8	5:30-8pm	Friday Night Bible School
Sun. 9/10	9am	Bible Class / Sunday School Resume
	4pm	Cleveland Area Worship Service
Tue. 9/12	7-9pm	Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach
Thu. 9/21 –		ManUP CLC Men's Retreat
Sun. 9/24		Wyalusing State Park, Prairie du Chien, WI

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Attendance Last Sunday = 31

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD:	\$63,384.62	Bi-Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted:	\$3961.54
General Fund Offerings Received YTD:	\$74,799.82	Bi-Weekly General Fund Offerings Received:	\$4270.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings):			\$7479.98
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund:			\$78,701.99

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Nathan Fobear Church Cleaning: Muellers

IN OUR PRAYERS <> ENCOURAGEMENT LIST

Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

Jackie McGruder remains homebound as she continues to suffer from lupus. **Jay Sandeen** is deployed with his army unit in Iraq. **The Ryans** are expecting a baby girl in September. **CLC Pastor John Hein**, 56, Grace, Fridley MN, is being treated for thymic carcinoma cancer.

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION SYNODWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1

CLC CALL NEWS: Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran, Rapid City, SD *is considering the call* from Calvary Lutheran in Marquette, MI.

MANUP! WEEKEND: The 2023 ManUp! Men's Weekend will be held September 21-24, 2023, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. The weekend will offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities. Register and send in your payment before August 31st for the discounted rate of \$75. Registration increases to \$150 after September 1st. The registration includes lodging and meals. You can register by going to the Man Up! website here: www.manup.clclutheran.org. and clicking on the Registration Form. Sign up today!

WEEKLY SERMON PODCAST: For nearly 65 years, the CLC's Ministry by Mail has been producing print sermons for distribution. Originally this was done by postal mail, especially for members living at a distance from their home church or serving in the military. With the arrival of the internet, sermons began being sent by email and posted online (www.lutheransermons.org). This past Advent, Ministry by Mail began offering audio versions of their sermons through weekly Podcast services. You can find these sermons on most major podcast platforms such as Google, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify by searching "*CLC Ministry by Mail.*" Hit "subscribe" or "follow" to receive notifications of weekly uploads. Contact Ministry by Mail editor, Nathan Pfeiffer, for more information – editor@lutheransermons.org