



“Anyone who
loves me will
obey my teaching.
My Father
will love them,
and we will ...
make our home
with them.”

JOHN 14:23, NIV

Zion’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Old Zionsville, PA

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024 10:30^{AM}

Welcome to Zion's Lutheran Church

We are a community that cares for one another. Feel free to voice your prayer concerns. Know our hearts join together as we pray. Everyone's voice is needed to tell the good news of God's love in Jesus; whether it be singing hymns, reading lessons, or greeting your neighbors.

If you would like to learn more about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, please visit <https://elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching>. If you would like to learn more about the Zion's Church, please visit <http://www.zelcoz.org>.

As We Worship

Invited into Friendship

Ask any child who has moved to a new place and they will probably confirm that their biggest worry was if they'd make new friends. Parents worry for their teenager and young adult in each stage of growth, wondering if new friends will be kind and generous, if their daughter or son will find mutually beneficial relationships. Adults are not immune from their own relationship trials. Busy lives, competing priorities, transitions and death can mean the end of sustaining relationships. Bullying, fear-tactics and misuse of others are common problems, so friendship is precious. We treasure new friendships and work to keep tending those that last for many years—because we need them.

Today's readings inspire and compel us to love one another and see one another as God does. As the Holy Spirit falls on those outside the inner circle of the circumcised, Peter asks how the water of baptism can be withheld. In 1 John we hear that those who love the parent love the child. Jesus says followers are no longer servants but friends. So whether they are a stranger with different customs and practices, our family member, or closest friend, we are called today with the challenge and opportunity to love them. The promise is that this unconditional love that comes first from our Creator and Parent, expressed through the person of Jesus and through the Spirit, is splashed all over us, and will make our joy complete.

For those who have experienced great relationships in their lives and for those who have never yet quite tasted that sustaining fruit, Jesus shows how much he loves us and the ways to cultivate deeper relationships. Jesus laid down his life to show his great love. We're invited to love expansively and experience the joy of friendship with Jesus and through the body of Christ.

Prelude

Invocation

All may make the sign of the cross in remembering their baptism.

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

Amen

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Please rise if you are able.

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

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

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.

Hymn of Praise

“This Is The Feast”

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading - Acts 10.44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the na-
tions.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Is-
rael;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to
judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading— 1 John 5.1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel - John 15.9-17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated.

Lutheran World Relief Litany of Thanksgiving and Hope

(see insert).

Sermon - The Rev. Thomas D. Busted

(after a period of silence for reflection, please stand for the hymn)

Hymn of the Day

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Petitions will conclude “God of grace,”
Please respond “**hear our prayer.**”

At the conclusion of the petitions, the presiding minister concludes:
Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and
living Lord.

Amen.

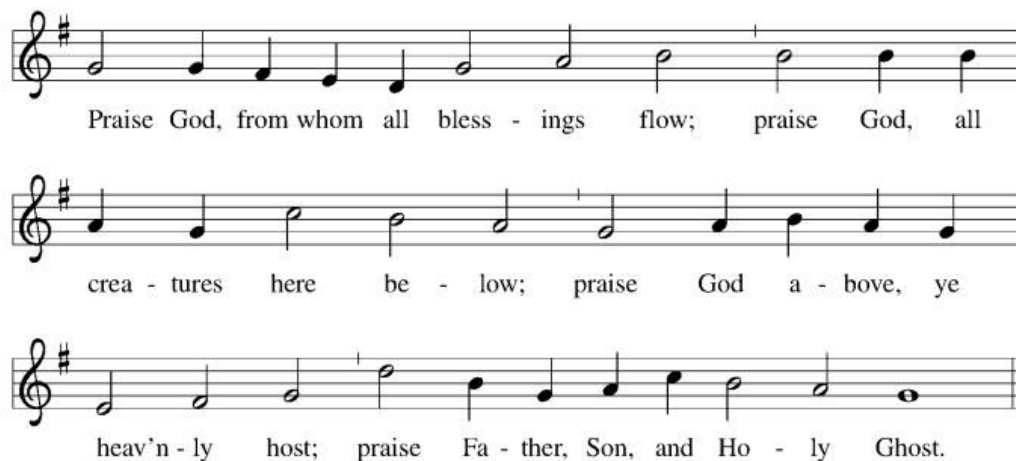
The Sharing of the Peace

Please share the peace as you feel comfortable.
The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Thank you for supporting the Ministries of Zion’s Lutheran, either by
placing a donation in one of the plates/boxes at the entrances to the
sanctuary, or by conveniently contributing online at the Vanco Mobile
App, which can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google
Play.

Offertory “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The first staff ends with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God forever.

Offering Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

The Holy Communion

In the Holy Communion, we experience the Real Presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and all adults and children who desire to receive Him are encouraged to come forward. Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

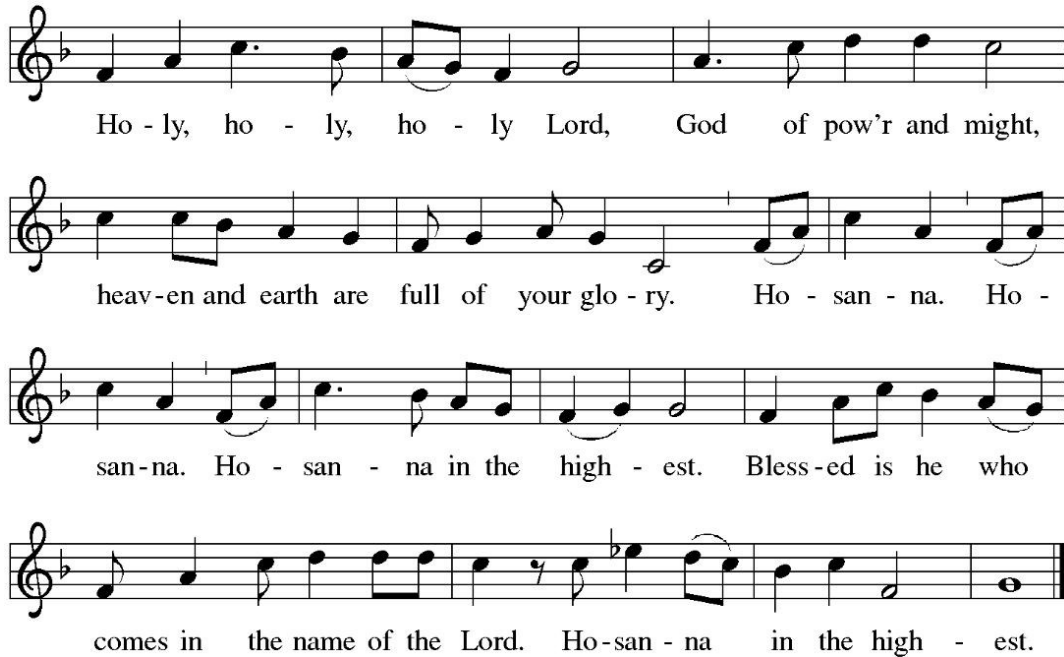
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...*Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Fraction

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Hymn

"Lamb of God"

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 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Please be seated.

During the distribution of Communion, the following hymn is sung.

Communion Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me!”
ELW 595

Please rise if you are able.

Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

“Blessing Before A Meal”

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

You open wide your hand

and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
ELW 836

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The congregation is asked to remain in their seats until the Pastor, Assisting Minister and Acolyte have recessed.

Postlude

Worship Leaders This Morning

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Ministers | All the members of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church |
| Presiding Minister | The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed (Cell phone 570-856-2078) |
| Assisting Minister | Cindy Schmaldest |
| Guest Musician | Seth Penoyer |
| Acolyte | Megan Loeb |
| Live-Streaming | Dyane Miller |

For Those in Need of Prayer

Additional Prayers—Elke Lindenmuth, Donald Schlicher, Stanley Trout, Blanche Schantz, Marvin Schantz, Richard Malburg, Caroline Laubach, Travis Tillou, Christine Rex, June Trotter, Melanie Tibbals, Melissa Yaglowksi, Andy Wheeler, Teresa Schmaldest, Lyn Bohn, John Fouldes, Brian Dries, Lynn Henderson, Donna VanCott, Sandy Schlicher, Bill McEwan, Dorothy Litzenberger, Jared Washburn, Jacob Beers, Janet Wetzel, Viola Bartholomew, Geri Getz, Brenda Snyder and Maverik Wolbach.

THIS WEEK we welcome and thank Seth Penoyer for providing music in today's worship service.



| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Today, May 5 th | Adult Forum @ 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service @ 10:30 ^{AM} Potluck Luncheon @ 11:45 ^{AM} |
| Wednesday, May 8 th | Community Office Hours at Trivet @ 1:30 ^{PM} |



Special Appeal for the Building Fund Potluck

Our luncheon will take place today, May 5th immediately following church. Please bring a dish to share with your fellow members!

Potluck
LUNCHEON

Thank you for your pledge and donations to the Building Appeal Fund. Please be sure to use the "Other" envelope with lines for description indicating "Building Fund Pledge" to separate your donation from regular offering. This is necessary for us to earmark your contribution correctly.

Vanco EFT donations can also be used to make your pledge donations. There will be a designated choice indicating "Building Fund Appeal" so your donation is directed correctly. You can use the Vanco Mobile app or fill out the EFT form available through the church office. Directions for Vanco Mobile contributions are included in the monthly Tidings report. If you have any problems, please email me at janesugliazion@gmail.com.

Jane Suglia, Treasurer
Finance Committee



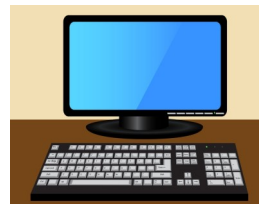
Adopt-A-Highway

Sunday, May 19th will be our volunteer Adopt-A-Highway cleanup this Spring. All those that would like to volunteer, please meet after service on the 19th at 1:00^{PM} in our church parking lot. Let's show our neighbors we care in this outreach opportunity. We are usually done by 2:30^{PM}. Your time and service is appreciated. We will have refreshments after cleanup.

Thank you,
Anthony Suglia

Volunteers Needed

As you know, we live-stream our services to those who cannot make it to church. What you may not know is that this service is coordinated and currently staffed by Dave Heintzleman and Dyane Miller. We need volunteers to help live-stream our services. There are written instructions with pictures, and training will be provided. Those serving in this capacity would be scheduled on a rotating basis (i.e. you may be asked to live-stream every 4 weeks or so, depending on the number of people who volunteer).



This is such an important part of our outreach ministry. Won't you volunteer to help? Please contact Betty in the office at 610-966-3834, or by email at zions@ptd.net. THANK YOU!

Donations for the **New Craft Crew Initiative** will be accepted through today, May 5, 2024. Fabric and monetary donations will be accepted. Fabric donations **MUST** conform to one of the sizes as listed. Scraps and small pieces will no longer be accepted. For further info, please see the April Tidings on page 5, or contact Betty in the church office. Thank you!



Calling All Bakers!!!

There will be a bake sale as part of the events at the 78th Annual Pilgrimage to the Dillingersville Schoolhouse. If you love to bake, please consider donating one of your delicious desserts to support this beautiful and historical schoolhouse. **Bring your dessert(s) to the schoolhouse with you prior to the 10:30am service on Sunday, June 30th.** Please keep in mind that there is no refrigeration available, so you may want to consider not using icing on your dessert. For more information, please contact Teresa Marks at 610-509-1488 (cell number). Thank you!



For Children who are in the Elementary Grades...

Sunday School will be offered for children who attend 1st through 5th



Grade. The combined class will be held **once a month at 9:15^{AM}**. Class will run until 10:15^{AM}.



The next two classes will be held on May 26 and June 9. For more information or to register your child/children, contact Teresa Marks (tam1029@earthlink.net or 610-509-1488).



Come to learn more about God and Jesus through reading Bible stories, playing games and doing crafts. Hope to see you there!

Calling All Members of Zions!!!

Please don't forget to submit your offering even if you are unable to attend church. As of the **end of March**, Zion's has **a shortfall of \$5,688!!**

At our January Annual Meeting we agreed to approve our budget. This budget allows us to have the services of a full time pastor, part-time administrative assistant and necessary support staff (sexton and musical director). In addition to our streamlined staff, the budget supports Worship and Music and Christian Education Programming. Your offering will also assist Zion's to participate in Outreach and Benevolence opportunities within the greater community.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering. Remember that the church's general expenses go up just like your own expenses at home. All we have comes to us from God. Our gifts should be a cheerful expression of our love to Him.

To donate, you can mail or bring your contribution to Zion's. You may also use automatic bill pay through your bank or use electronic funds transfer (EFT) through the Vanco Mobile app.

Thank you for your willingness to support the mission of Zion's!

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38 NIV

Sixth Sunday of Easter + May 5, 2024

The Unconditional Love of Disciple-Friends

Friend requests are a common feature of Facebook and similar digital platforms. When it comes to social media, “friends” are just a click away. But there is no automatic guarantee of accountability, warmth, relationship, or true belonging in a virtual community. In stark contrast, Jesus invites the disciples to become part of a community where selfless, sacrificial, unconditional *agape* love is the core criterion. The kingdom, or “kingdom,” of God is present wherever God’s people are affirmed as children of God and siblings in Christ. But Jesus gives his disciples an additional identity: that of “friends.”

In the new status Jesus confers on his disciples, the single most important criterion is love, including the readiness to lay down one’s life for another. Jesus has just taught this lesson by example when he washed the feet of his disciples, including Judas Iscariot. The new commandment to love one another as Jesus loved us summarizes the whole of the gospel mandate. It is not an easy commandment by any human standards, but it is possible because Jesus himself showed us the way and forgives us when we fall short. The status of “disciple-friends” is not a request for the church, but a faith mandate.

How can we live as disciple-friends of Jesus in this world? When we believe, trust, obey, and follow the word, and the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples, a real new community is born. When we learn to embrace the other—those who are marginalized and “othered”—we partner with God in enabling the image of God to blossom to its fullest.

Telling the Story, Learning the Word, Serving our Neighbor.

“Inviting, welcoming, and supporting our congregation and community while learning God’s word and serving those around us.”

Zion’s Vision Statement, 2019