

All are welcome here!

This church and this altar belong to God, and not to us. All people are welcome to participate in every aspect of our worship, including our open table for the Eucharist. We are honored by your presence this day and hope you find peace and refreshment as we celebrate the extravagant love of God, as followers of *the Way* of Jesus.

For quiet meditation...

For the mystery of the text, and for the history of eyes to see and ears to hear the text, we give You thanks.

Our eyes are scaled and our ears are uncircumcised and we are children of another world.

We pray for the gift of perception.

We pray for energy and courage, that we may not leave the text until we wrench Your blessing from it. ~ *W. Brueggemann*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 9th, 2018

The gospel story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us in community as the people of the Way.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The assembly stands to collectively center for worship and contemplate God's graciousness.

God has chosen those whom the world sees as poor to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that is promised to those who love the Lord.

Blessed are You, Lord God of hosts, for You have visited and redeemed Your people.

Those who have a generous eye will be blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus, those who trust your grace cannot be moved, they live in you forever!

GATHERING HYMN

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

ELW (red book) 510

GREETING

The grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! ***And also with you!***

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Let us pray: Gracious God, throughout the ages You transform sickness into health and death into life. Please open us to the power of Your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim Your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. ***Amen!***

WORD

God speaks to us in poetry, creative writing, scripture, preaching, and song.

A READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE (Tanakh): Isaiah 35:4-7

*The Message**

These verses are a word of hope to the Hebrew exiles from Babylon. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning people.

Tell fearful souls,

"Courage! Take heart! GOD is here, right here, on [the] way to put things right and redress all wrongs.

[God is] on [the] way! [God will] save you!"

⁵⁻⁷ Blind eyes will be opened, deaf ears unstopped, Lame men and women will leap like deer, the voiceless break into song. Springs of water will burst out in the wilderness, streams flow in the desert. Hot sands will become a cool oasis, thirsty ground a splashing fountain. Even lowly jackals will have water to drink, and barren grasslands flourish richly.

Response Word of God, Word of Life! ***Thanks be to God!***

PSALM 146

spoken responsively

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, my soul!

² ***I want to praise the LORD throughout my life. I want to make music to praise my God as long as I live.***

³ Do not trust influential people, mortals who cannot help you.

⁴ ***When they breathe their last breath, they return to the ground. On that day their plans come to an end.***

⁵ Blessed are those who receive help from the God of Jacob. Their hope rests on the LORD their God,

⁶ ***who made heaven, earth, the sea, and everything in them. The LORD remains faithful forever.***

⁷ [The Lord] brings about justice for those who are oppressed.

[The Lord] gives food to those who are hungry [and] sets prisoners free.

⁸ **The LORD gives sight to blind people. The LORD straightens the backs of those who are bent over. The LORD loves righteous people.**

⁹ The LORD protects foreigners. The LORD gives relief to orphans and widows [but] keeps wicked people from reaching their goal.

¹⁰ **The LORD rules as king forever. [People of God], your [Lord] rules throughout every generation. Hallelujah!**

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: James 2:1-17

*The Message**

Faithful followers of Jesus WAY do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, following Jesus' WAY expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

² ¹⁻⁴ My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, "Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!" and either ignore the street person or say, "Better sit here in the back row," haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted?

⁵⁻⁷ Listen, dear friends. Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently? [God] chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with full rights and privileges. This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. And here you are abusing these same citizens! Isn't it the high and mighty who exploit you, who use the courts to rob you blind? Aren't they the ones who scorn the new name—"Christian"—used in your baptisms?

⁸⁻¹¹ You do well when you complete the Royal Rule of the Scriptures: "Love others as you love yourself." But if you play up to these so-called important people, you go against the Rule and stand convicted by it. You can't pick and choose in these things, specializing in keeping one or two things in God's law and ignoring others. The same God who said, "Don't commit adultery," also said, "Don't murder." If you don't commit adultery but go ahead and murder, do you think your non-adultery will cancel out your murder? No, you're a murderer, period.

¹²⁻¹³ Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free. For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time.

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

Response Word of God, Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 205

The assembly stands to welcome Jesus, the living Word, in song.

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving grace.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

Preface The Holy Gospel according to Mark! **Glory to you, O Lord!**

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPELS (Good News): Mark 7:24-37

*The Message**

Jesus set out for the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house there where he didn't think he would be found, but he couldn't escape notice. He was barely inside when a woman who had a disturbed daughter heard where he was. She came and knelt at his feet, begging for help. The woman was Greek, Syro-Phoenician by birth. She asked him to cure her daughter.

²⁷ He said, "Stand in line and take your turn. The children get fed first. If there's any left over, the dogs get it."

²⁸ She said, "Of course, Master. But don't dogs under the table get scraps dropped by the children?"

²⁹⁻³⁰ Jesus was impressed. "You're right! On your way! Your daughter is no longer disturbed. The [foul] affliction is gone." She went home and found her daughter relaxed on the bed, the torment gone for good.

³¹⁻³⁵ Then he left the region of Tyre, went through Sidon back to Galilee Lake and over to the district of the Ten Towns. Some people brought a man who could neither hear nor speak and asked Jesus to lay a healing hand on him. He took the man off by himself, put his fingers in the man's ears and some spit on the man's tongue. Then Jesus looked up in prayer, groaned mightily, and commanded, "Ephphatha!—Open up!" And it happened. The man's hearing was clear and his speech plain—just like that.

³⁶⁻³⁷ Jesus urged them to keep it quiet, but they talked it up all the more, beside themselves with excitement. "He's done it all and done it well. He gives hearing to the deaf, speech to the speechless."

Response The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

COLLECT (*Collecting our hearts for the Message*)

Let us pray: God of outsiders, and of those whose ears are slow to hear and whose tongues are hesitant to sing, please make us the agents of Your joy! Help us to hear Your word more clearly, to serve You more gladly, and to sing Your praises more eagerly. Only then will our daily lives be in tune with Your love, our deeds become channels of Jesus' grace, and our souls revel in the fellowship of your Spirit. For Your love's sake we pray and we say, **Amen!**

MESSAGE

Pastor Rafaela

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

We don't all come to confession, loving God, with identical feelings and thoughts. Some of us may be feeling ashamed because of things recently done or said. Some may be feeling frustrated by our ignorance and ineffectiveness. Some may be uneasy about our inertia as a church. Some among us may be discouraged by our well-intentioned, yet hurtful, blundering. Some of us may be feeling judgmental of others yet full of self-justifications. And some may not feel they have anything to confess at all.

Merciful Savior, no matter what we feel or think, please deal with us according to our true need as you see it. Please bring us to an appropriate repentance, that we may humbly seek your grace, accept your absolution, and from this moment make a clean start in this new week. This we ask in the name of Christ Jesus our redeemer. Amen!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As a called and ordained minister of Christ's church, I **✠** declare to us the forgiveness of our sins. ***Thanks be to God!***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, You call Your church to proclaim the love of Jesus to a needy world. Please embolden us to be Your risen body by welcoming strangers and serving our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creative God, small sprouts and tall trees proclaim Your majesty. Please give us clear eyes to see nature's beauty and wise minds to protect our home, this earth, from misuse and harm. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, You draw order from chaos. Please watch over the nations of the world and bless citizens and leaders who strive toward the beloved community for which You long. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, You give us all that we need. When Your children suffer from hunger, poverty, loneliness, persecution, injury, or illness, please send generous helpers and companions. We pray especially for Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Welcoming God, You set a table for us. Please embolden our congregations of Grace Ministries to seek new ways of inviting others to the feast of all creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You bless us with throngs of saints who witness to Your compassion. With gratitude, we recall the lives and deeds of those who proclaim lovingkindness to a needy world (*including Peter Claver, priest and missionary*). Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into Your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. ***Amen.***

SHARING OF THE PEACE

All are encouraged to greet others in Christ's name.

The peace of Christ be with you always! **And, also with you!**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of the risen and ascended Christ!

GATHERING OF GIFTS

As the gifts of bread, wine, and currency are brought forward, the assembly stands.

**OFFERTORY (REFRAIN) Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given,
we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.**

ELW 474

**(VERSE) Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; giving thanks hungry ones, gather round.
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. (Repeat REFRAIN)**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: God of all creation, all You have made is good, and Your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Please nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of Your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ***Amen.***

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

God of all creation, You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. By Your Holy Spirit this bread and wine will be for us the body and blood of Christ. ***All You have made is good. Your love endures forever!***

THANKSGIVING FOR JESUS' LIFE AND OUR SALVATION

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us open up our hearts! **We open them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! **It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

Pastor Rafaela gives thanks for God's salvation in Jesus Christ.

...we praise Jesus' name and join the unending song:

SANCTUS

ELW 525

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand. You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near, blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread,

Raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

CHRIST'S WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor Rafaela prays for the Spirit's presence in us who are gathered and the meal we share.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The bread which we break is a sharing of the body of Christ.

We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world. Happy are they who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Behold who you are! Become what you receive!

Thanks be to God!

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

ELW pg. 154

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, grant us peace.

THE EUCHARIST

(intinction-dipping of host into the chalice of wine or grape juice)

Wherever you are from and whatever you believe you are welcome to receive at the table of the Lord.

All people are welcomed to The Meal!

Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing signified by crossed arms.

POST COMMUNION TABLE BLESSING

POST EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Let us pray: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your Grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your Way of peace, for you are Lord Forevermore! **Amen!**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING God almighty, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,

please grant us the gifts of faith and hope. Creator, Redeemer \dagger and Sustainer, bless us now and forever. **Amen!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Earth and All Stars!

ELW 731

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! The Spirit sends us forth to serve! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com, Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #28372. CCLI license #313059, Call to Worship, Collect, Confession/Renewal per The Rev. Bruce Prewer @ www.bruceprewer.com, Confessional song per Weston Priory

*Scripture translations are in the public domain and sourced through <http://www.biblegateway.com>

ALLERGY NOTICES

NOTE 1: The chalice next to Pastor Rafaela contains wine while the small chalice on the outside contains grape juice.

NOTE 2: If you require a gluten-free offering, uncontaminated by wheat, and uncontaminated wine, please let Pastor Rafaela as they are available.

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Else Schulze by Liz Blash.

Serving today are:

Jackie & Vinny Walsh – **Comm. Assistant**
Miranda Courteau – **Acolyte**

Adam Hanks – **Worship Assistant**
Anita Haynes/Jeff Bylund – **Ushers**

Joan Parker – **Reader**
Jen & John Rapoza – **Greeters**

PRAYER LIST

Members names are underlined: Bold face are newly added as of 9/5/2018

Helen Armstrong, Pat Bean, Phil Becker, Karen Carlson, Liesl Voosen Fields, Grover Gentry, Mary E. Johnson, Tina Krol, Bill Lewis, Eric Lewis, Tracy McLean, Mike Prickett, Tony Navickas, Kay Venning

TO PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN, May we suggest...

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house! All are welcome!

Sit towards the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of other people's heads ☺

Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you!

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship!

GRACE MINISTRIES, ELCA – Yoked Communities of Faith and Service

MISSION STATEMENT

"To boldly share God's Love and Grace universally in and through our communities."

VISION STATEMENT

Modeling the welcoming nature of God, we are humbly called and driven by the Spirit to witness, engage and walk with each other authentically, as Jesus' hands and feet, providing spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment.

Through evolving partnerships with ecumenical and other social service organizations we affirm justice and wholeness under the "agency of Grace" that feed the needs and hope of all.

The Rev. Andrew H. Borden, Pastor
pastor_andrew.b@verizon.net

Ann Spinner, Parish Administrator
bethelauburn@verizon.net

The Rev. John Nieman & The Rev. Rafaela Morales Rosa, Rotating Presiding Associates 2nd & 4th weeks

Worcester Campus - Zion Lutheran

41 Whitmarsh Avenue, 01606
Office: 508-853-2009

The-Community-of-Zion-Lutheran-Worcester.org

Organist – Karen Couturier
Choral/Bell Director – Sally Bond
President – David Valleli

Auburn Campus - Bethel Lutheran

90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, 01501
Office: 508-832-3427

BethelAuburnELCA.org

Principal Organist/Choral Director – Brenda Salvi
Associate Organist/Choral Director – Lois Toepfner, Deacon
President – Grover Gentry



NES: A RECONCILING IN CHRIST SYNOD



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.