

# COMMUNION

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek [5 PM, 8 AM]  
*How Beautiful* — ZION Choir [10:30 AM]

### BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

HYMN #717 — *Let Justice Flow like Streams*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek



Whoever is faithful  
in a very little  
is faithful also in much ...

Luke 16:10, NRSV



### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# 15th Sunday after Pentecost

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

## WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. **Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

HYMN #686 — *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

### GREETING

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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## W O R D

### **FIRST READING — *Amos 8:4-7***

Hear this, you that trample on the needy and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

### **SECOND READING — *1 Timothy 2:1-7***

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL — *Luke 16:1-13***

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong

enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford**

### **HYMN #678 — *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*Petitions conclude...* name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **THE OFFERING**

### **OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek**