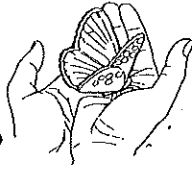


*The LORD your God
has chosen you to be
a people for
his treasured
possession...*

Deuteronomy 7:b



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
210 North Wayne Street
St. Marys, OH 45885

July 30, 2023
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Setting 3

Page 138 Red Hymnal

PRELUDE *On Jordan's Stormy Banks* Leatherman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG *"O Zion, Haste"* #668

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Page 94

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

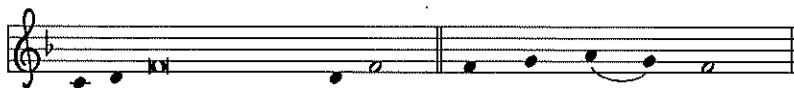
C: Amen.

GREETING

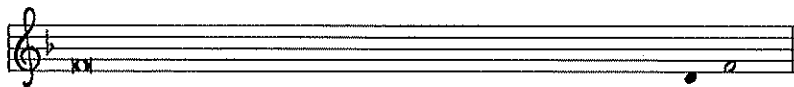
L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who grants us life eternal, the glory of the Father who created us in love, and the power of the Holy Spirit who forgives and renews our life, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

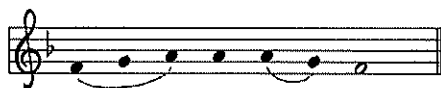
KYRIE



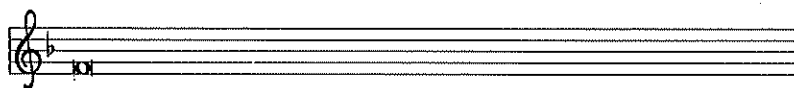
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



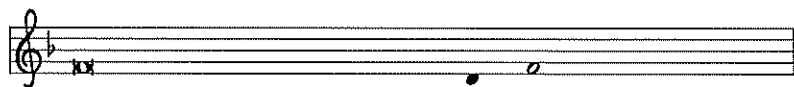
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



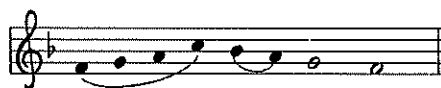
Lord, have mer - cy.



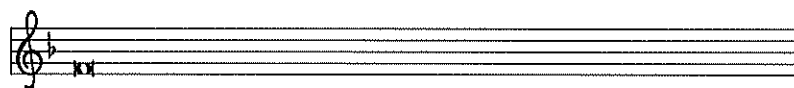
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



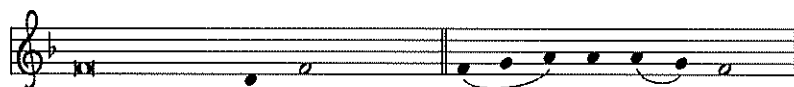
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Insert

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Insert

PSALM 125

Insert

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-39

Insert

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.

P: The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew the thirteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

Insert

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Bill

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Be Thou My Vision"

#793

NICENE CREED

Page 104

**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

L: Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sometimes a Light Surprises*

*Sometimes a light surprises
the Christian while he sings
it is the Lord who rises
with healing in His wings*

CONGREGATIONAL SONG



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



bles - sing. 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 the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



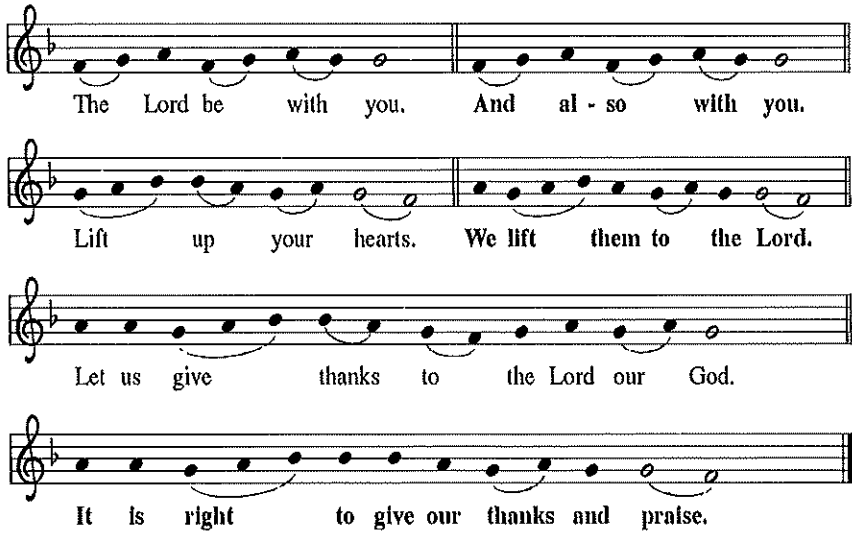
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Benevolent God, you have granted us in abundance with all the good things that life has to offer. May we be truly grateful for our daily bread, even as we return a portion of what you have first given us as a sign of our humility and thanksgiving for your bounteous gifts. Let the treasures we have received from you be used to serve your mission in the world.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you, And al - so 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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Sing praises
to the **LORD**,

you his faithful ones,
and give thanks
to his holy name.

PSALM 30:4, NRSV

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

P: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 SONG



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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

<i>"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"</i>	#775
<i>"What Feast of Love"</i>	#487

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

Holy and Eternal God, you have fed, nourished, and forgiven us at your holy table. Send us now into the world to share the good news of your salvation with all we meet, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
And give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG *"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"* #774

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Arise to Life

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Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 7:7

It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,...



Happy Anniversary!

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Sandy & John Wierwille's 15th wedding anniversary on July 26th.



Happy Birthday Steve!

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Steve McAfee's birthday yesterday, by his wife, Dora.

Today, July 30*

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Zoey Lampert
10:30am: Megan Miller
- Communion** 8AM: Chris White
- Assistants:** 10:30AM: Connie Torsell
- Crucifers:** 8AM: Braylon Lampert
10:30AM: Genevieve Brown
- Ushers:** 8AM: Judy Schultz, Rhonda Weaver,
Deb Henning, Jeanne Wurster
10:30AM: Dwayne Hoenie, Sandy Wierwille,
Keith Fledderjohann, Dana Cook
Youth: Aiden, Makenna, Cason, Xander Meinerding
- Fellowship** 8AM: Joyce Ross
- Table:** 10:30am: Sandy Wierwille
- Greeters:** 8AM: Nora Staunton, Sandy Wierwille
10:30AM: Steve & Dora McAfee
- Readers:** 8AM: Steve McAfee
10:30: Genevieve Brown

Next Sunday, August 6*

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Makenna Meinerding
10:30AM: Megan Miller
- Ushers:** 8AM: Ryan, Brandi, Eliza & Zaila Yahl
10:30AM: Dan Macklem, Dana Cook,
Mark & Connie Torsell,
- Fellowship** 8AM: Becky Harvey
- Table:** 10:30AM: John & Sue Vogel
- Greeters:** 8AM: Chris White, Sandy Wierwille
10:30AM: Sandy Wierwille, Joni Immenschuh
- Readers:** 8AM: Doris Cook
10:30: Dwayne Hoenie

* Subject to change, correct as of time printed

ATTENDANCE	Last Wednesday: 22
..... Sunday 8 a.m.: 40, 10:30 a.m.: 39, Total for the Day: 79	
..... Total for Week: 101	
DIRECTOR OF BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION	
.....Mindy Thiebeau, zionbpe@gmail.com	
OFFICE MANAGER	Kathy Bishir, kbishir@hotmail.com
OFFICE ASSISTANT.....	Ann Maki, annmmaki@yahoo.com
LAY LEADER	Heidi Yahl, heidiyahl@yahoo.com
PASTOR.....	William Maki, wllmmaki@yahoo.com
MINISTERS.....	All Members of Zion
CHURCH WEBSITE	www.zionstmarys.org
CHURCH OFFICE.....	419-394-3115

Calendar for July 30—August 13, 2023

S/30	8:00 a.m.	Worship+*
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class
	10:30 a.m.	Youth Worship Service*
M/31	7:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop #360
T/1	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
	6:00 p.m.	Trustee Meeting
	7:30 p.m.	Council Meeting
W/2	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	1:00 p.m.	Book Club
	6:30 p.m.	Worship*
S/6	8:00 a.m.	Worship+*
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship *
T/7	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop #360
T/8	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
W/9	9:30 a.m.	Women's Board Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	6:30 p.m.	Worship
S/12	9:00 a.m.	Men in Mission Bible Study
S/13	8:00 a.m.	Worship+
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	1:30 p.m.	Creative Crafters

**Holy Communion*

**Livestreamed on www.zionstmarys.org & on WCSM 96.7 Radio*

We invite you to include the following people in your daily prayers: Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Sandi Deerhake, Alma Kuffner, Caleb Yahl, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Ann Morris, Darlene Henkener, Margaret Moore, Ronald Suchland, Don Diers, Linda Diers, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Brandye Patterson, Paul White, Becky Hook, Don Renninger, Emily Henkle, Kristin Hemmelgarn, Mary Willmann, Pastor Wilck, Kathy Manbeck, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman, Dianne McDermitt, Tracy Anderson, Markham Hodge, Katie, Miriam Johns, Val Heidtke, the Family of Gene Menuez, and the attendances of the NALC National Convocation.

Please pray for Sean Lawler, Andrew Johnson, Michael Carroll, Nathan Adams, Jacob Yahl, Jason Gross, Daniel C. Lukac IV, Michael Franklin and Kyle Schmehl who are in the service. Please pray for them, their family, and their safe return home.

Our loose offering for the month of July is the Cancer Association of Auglaize County.

The financial statements for the first 6 months have been mailed to households who have given a donation. Please contact Kathy, in the church office if you have a concern about your statement. 419-394-3115.

Creative Crafters will meet **Sunday, August 13**, at 1:30 p.m., to make mosaic rock art, a fun project for both adults and children. Sign up in the book on the display table in the Narthex. The cost is \$15.

Women's Bible Studies will be starting again in September. The Wednesday evening on **September 13**, at 7 p.m. The Thursday afternoon on **September 14**, at 2 p.m. We will be meeting in the lounge. We will be studying "Come Holy Spirt". The study is about

the third person of the Trinity. We will see how the Spirit is revealed throughout the Bible. The study books are \$10 each. Please let the church office know if you want one. Orders need to be in by **Sunday, August 27**. Hope to see you in September.

Don't forget to check the book cart in the narthex for new books added to the cart. These books are offered free to the congregation.

We are in need of an Agape Representative. If you are interested, please contact the church office, 419-394-3115.

We have installed equipment for livestreaming of our worship services. The worship services can be found on our Facebook page. Volunteers are needed to help with recording each of the services. Please contact the church office, 419-394-3115, or Pastor Bill about this ministry.

Our 8 a.m. worship service is broadcast live on WCSM radio 96.7 FM. Thank you to our primary sponsor of our WCSM radio broadcast—St. Marys Chrysler. Volunteers are needed to help with the sound board. No experience needed! Anyone interested in running the sound board during worship will be trained. We would like to have more people for rotation purposes. Contact the church office, 419-394-3115, or Pastor Bill if you can help.

Weekly Budget	30 Week Budget	30 Week Income	Received 7/23
\$6,133--Current	\$183,990	\$167,519	\$9,193
\$290--NALC Offering	\$8,700	\$4,031	\$111

Council Organization 2023

President:Neal Brady

Vice President: Cheryl Macklem

Secretary:Jeanne Wurster

Assistant Secretary: Genevieve Brown

Treasurer:Stanley Brown

Assistant Treasurer:Andrew O'Bryan

COUNCIL AT LARGE: Pete Ackroyd, Stan Brown, Thelma Kellermeyer, Cheryl Macklem, Andrew O'Bryan, Doug Stetler

BOARD OF DEACONS: John Hesse, Dwayne Hoenie, Dan Macklem, Judy Schultz, Jody Slemmons Dianne Uhlenhake, Rhonda Weaver, **Jeanne Wurster***, Ryan Yahl

BOARD ELDERS: Darl Bishir*, Kathy Lampert, Brandy Yahl

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Dana Cook*, Ed Flora, Eric Langsdon, Kurt Rodeheffer

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Alexa Coldiron, Karrie Hughes, Ann Maki, **Sandy Wierwille***

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION DIRECTOR: Mindy Thiebeau

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: Genevieve Brown

MEMBERS TO THE TRUST FUND: Darl Bishir, **Doris Cook***, Rick Green, Bill Kellermeyer, Marion Slater

**Chairperson*

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12) – July 30, 2023

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

-Matthew 13:45-46-

Our text tells us that God’s Kingdom is the pearl of great price. It is so valuable that it is worth giving up everything to attain it, including our lives. But how valuable is it? Our text does not answer this question because it cannot. Although the Kingdom is more valuable than all we have, we cannot put a price tag on it since it transcends all human values. More basically, its value cannot be measured since the Kingdom is itself the measure of all values.

So, what exactly is the Kingdom? Simply put, the Kingdom is the reign of God. In his Small Catechism, Luther states this truth quite plainly in his explanation of the Second Petition of The Lord’s Prayer. Luther tells us that God’s Kingdom comes whenever “we believe His holy word and live a godly life.” But in this life, we do not yet see the Kingdom in its fullness.

On this side of God’s New Creation, the Kingdom is a reign, but not a realm. Thus, we cannot identify the church or any other human institution with the Kingdom. Rather, God’s Kingdom comes in all vocational spheres (the family, the workplace, the state, or the church) whenever and wherever people “believe His holy word and live a godly life.”

In the New Creation, however, the Kingdom will finally be both a reign and a realm. In fact, it will be a realm precisely because God’s reign will become uncontested and all-encompassing. In the New Creation, we will see that God’s reign is characterized by peace, joy, love, communion, goodness, beauty, order, meaning, purpose, and everything good.

In the New Creation, we will also see that God’s reign extends to the transformation of the entire cosmos and thus to life itself. Death will be no more. From this all-encompassing splendor, we will finally see that Jesus Christ is not merely our personal Lord and Savior, but our cosmic Lord and Savior as well. Yet this transformation will be the special work of the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. This same Spirit will quicken our mortal bodies, fill us (and all things) with His glory, and be our intimate friend.

Hence, God’s Kingdom is worth giving our lives for, since this Kingdom is literally Life itself.