

*Stir up one another
to love and good works*

On the celebration of the ministry of
The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Preece

November 17, 2024

Pentecost 26

10:00 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church and School
Dallas, Texas

Stir up one another to love and good works

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

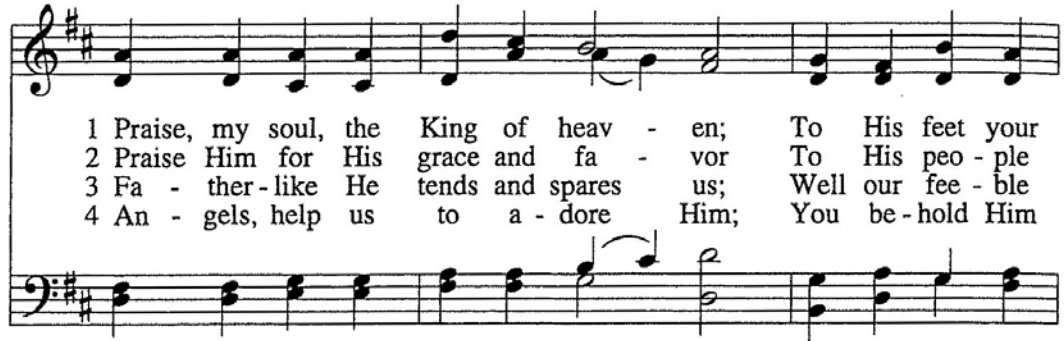
Absolution

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

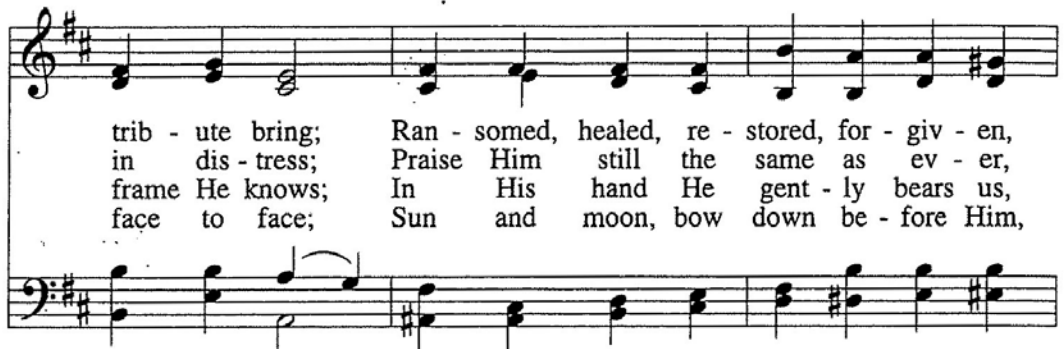
C Amen.



Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



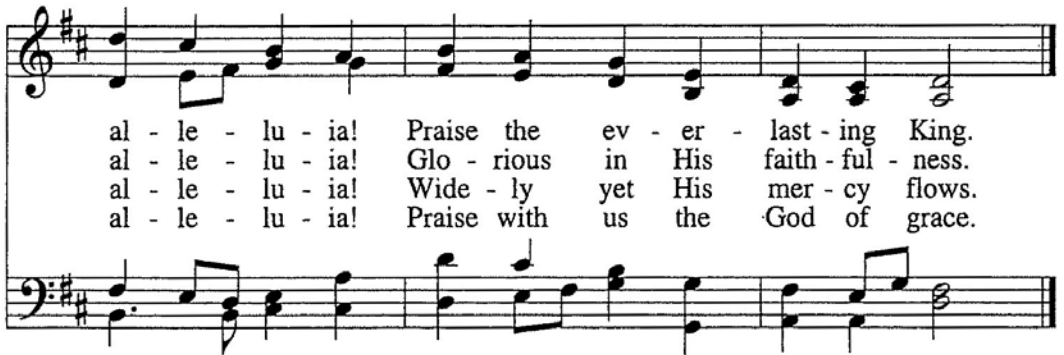
1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your
 2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple
 3 Fa - ther - like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore Him; You be - hold Him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,
 frame He knows; In His hand He gent - ly bears us,
 face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,
 Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,
 Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia,
 All who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia,

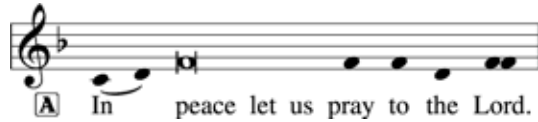


al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.
 al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.
 al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Stir up one another to love and good works

Service of the Word

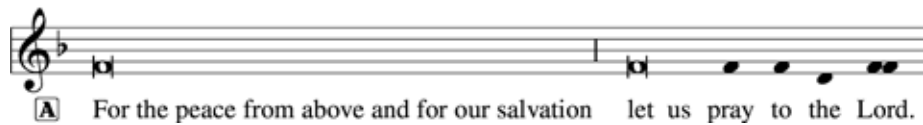
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



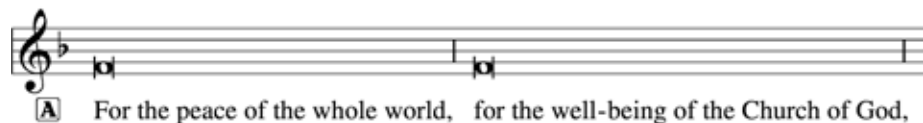
G Lord, have mer - cy.



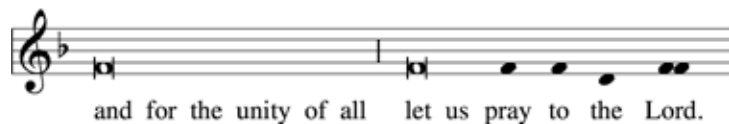
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



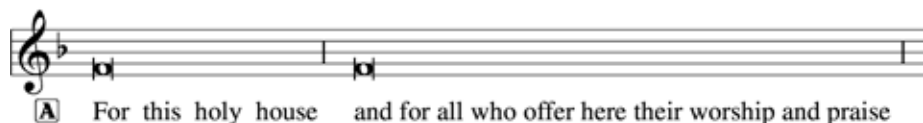
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



G Lord, have mer - cy.



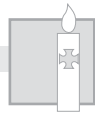
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

This Is the Feast



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



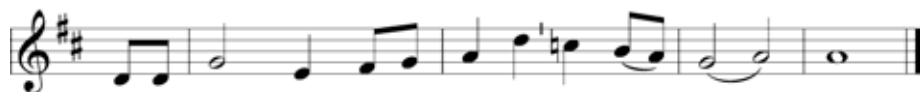
1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

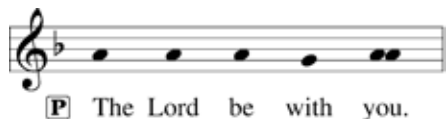


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Stir up one another to love and good works



P Let us pray.

O Lord, by your bountiful goodness release us from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves, that we may stand firm until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

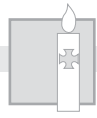
Anthem

A Welsh Prayer

Paul Mealor

Almighty God,
Whose faithfulness is like the mountains
And whose mercy like the rain,
Whose wisdom ordained that the lines should fall
for us in delightful places.
Grant us a spirit of thanksgiving,
And give us strength to serve,
That when you call on us we shall be ready
To answer for this corner of the earth.

—*Grahame Davies, 2013*



Old Testament Reading

Daniel 12:3

And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 10:11-13, 23-24

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C 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.

Stir up one another to love and good works

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:18-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

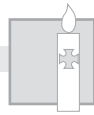
And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit



Hymn of the Day

Oh, What Mysteries Divine!



1. Oh, what mys - ter - ies di - vine! Pre - cious means of grace Make us whole:
 2. What a ho - ly mys - te - ry: God's In - car - nate Word— Christ the LORD!
Choir 3. *Word with wa - ter for our good, Washed, each bap - tized one Bears God's name!*
 4. Taste this lov - ing test - a - ment Of the pas - chal Lamb Sac - ri - ficed—
Choir 5. *Pas - tor, with great faith - ful - ness You ful - filled God's call— Course well - run!*
 6. Ho - ly Fath - er, God Most High, Mak - er, You pre - serve Ev - 'ry - thing;



Word and wa - ter, bread and wine— Je - sus' cross to trace On our soul;
 Pas - tors speak His his - to - ry: Creche to cross is heard— Raised! A - dored!
By this ho - ly, cleans - ing flood, Spir - it, Fath - er, Son, Sin - ners claim!
 Come, re - ceive this cov - e - nant Of the great I AM, Je - sus Christ!
Wis - dom, care, and gen - tle - ness With con - cern for all, None to shun.
 Ho - ly Son, You came to die Death that we de - serve, Life to bring;



Pas - tors charged to man - age these, Shep - herd - ing God's sheep when they stray;
 Right - ly truths of God di - vide, Law and Gos - pel taught— Seed well-sown!
In - to Je - sus' death bap - tized, Bur - ied with our King, Born a - gain!
 Ban - quet spread for great and least By our Groom who died: "Take and eat..."
We bless God with joy this day, Thank - ful for your love In this place:
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Pa - ra - clete, Ev - er here re - side, We im - plore—



Watch - ing, pray - ing— God's trus - tees, All in faith to keep Till that Day!
 We, the Spir - it - sanc - ti - fied: Christ-ward ev - 'ry thought— Faith is grown!
Our glad faith here voc - al - ized: "Ab - ba, Fath - er!" sing: "Yes! A - men!"
 Fore - taste of the wed - ding feast! We, His ho - ly Bride! Joy re - plete!
Join - ing hearts as one we pray To our Lord a - bove For His grace!
 Trin - i - ty, Your work com - plete, Ev - er mag - ni - fied, Ev - er - more!

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REV. RABBIT
 7 5 3 7 5 3 D

Today's text and setting have been commissioned with love and respect by the people of Zion Lutheran Church and School, Dallas, Texas, in celebration of the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Robert C. Preece.

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. —1 Corinthians 4:1

Stir up one another to love and good works

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

* *universal*



Prayers of the Church

Sit

Offering

The Voluntary

Stand

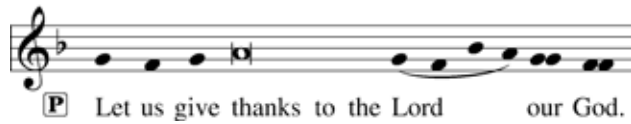
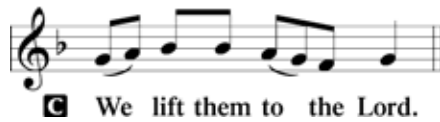
Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. 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.

Stir up one another to love and good works

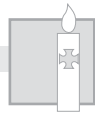
Service of the Sacrament

Preface



Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Sanctus

C 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Stir up one another to love and good works

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

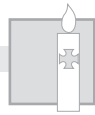
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment.

So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.



Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



A - men.

Agnus Dei



A 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.

Sit

Distribution

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

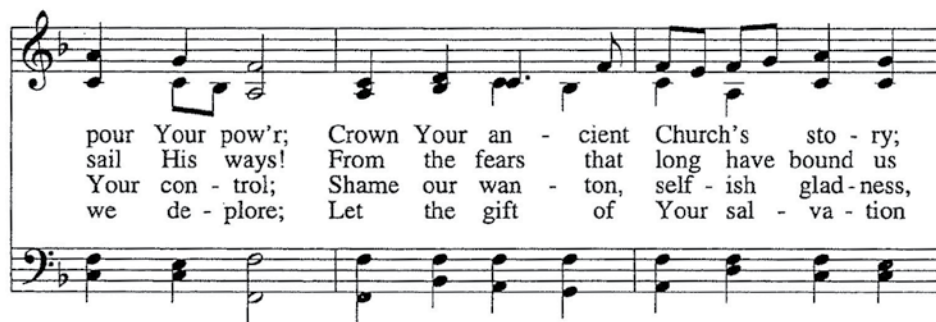
Stir up one another to love and good works

Distribution Hymns

God of Grace and God of Glory




1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils



pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion



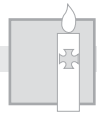
Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,



grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -



hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
days, For the liv - ing of these days.
goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.



Church of God, Elect and Glorious

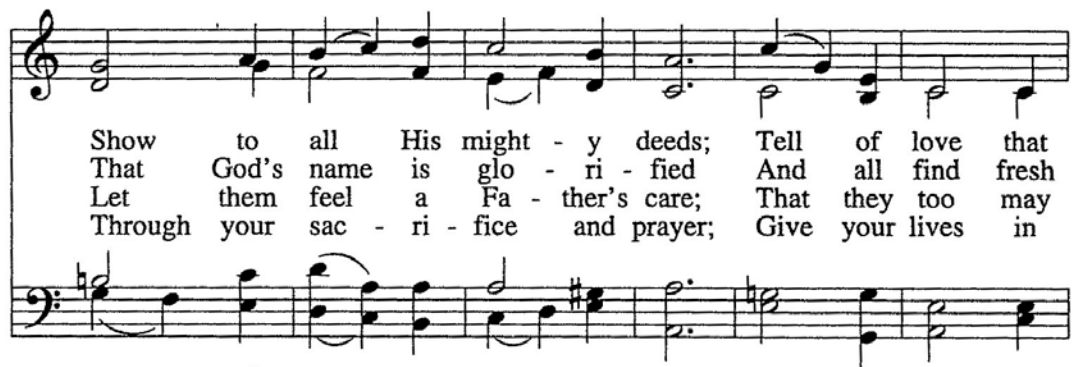
1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the

na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
 His most mar - v'ulous light; Brought His truth to
 to God's heart of love; But He brought you
 peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and

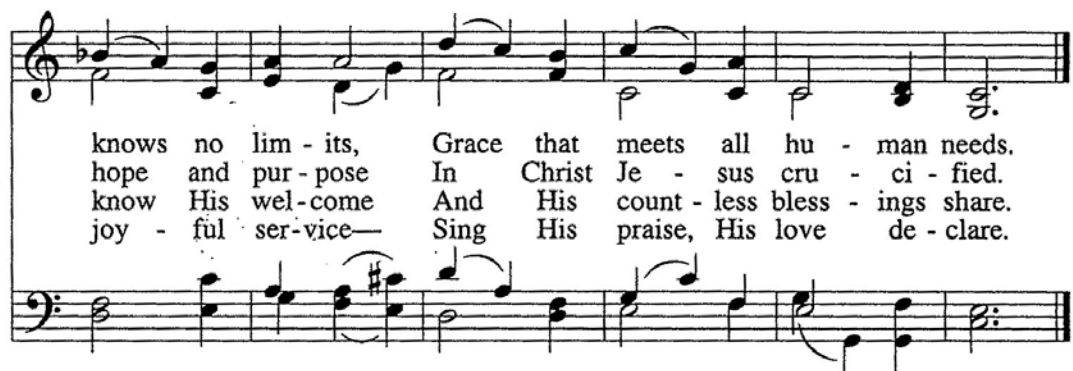
spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
 life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to
 home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -
 swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter

grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
 sight. Let your light so shine a - round you
 bove. Let His love flow out to oth - ers,
 sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing

Stir up one another to love and good works



Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh
Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may
Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in



knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.
joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.



Christ Be My Leader

1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
 2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
 3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not

dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
 doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
 hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor

fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
 shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
 sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Stir up one another to love and good works

Thank the Lord

G Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.
He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G A - men.

P 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.

G A - men.



Farewell and Godspeed

The Pastor is presented before the altar.

The Rev. Kenneth M. Hennings, Texas District president emeritus, says:

☐ Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Preece, Senior Pastor, will conclude his pastoral labors in this parish on The Eve of the Name of Jesus Day, December 31, in the year of Our Lord 2024. At this time of farewell and Godspeed, let us hear the Word of the Lord.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved sisters and brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Psalm sung responsively

**I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*
From where does my | help come?
My help comes | from the LORD,*
who made | heav'n and earth.
Lord, you have been our | dwelling place*
in all gener- | ations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth | and the world,*
from everlasting to everlasting | you are God.
The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength | eighty;*
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we | fly away.
Satisfy us in the morning with your | steadfast love,*
that we may rejoice and be glad | all our days.
Let your work be shown to your | servants,*
and your glorious power to their | children.**

Stir up one another to love and good works

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands up- | on us;*
yes, establish the work | of our hands!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son †
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Stand. The pastor may kneel.

Collect

L Let us pray.

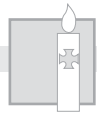
Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks for all the blessings You have bestowed on this Parish through the ministry of Your servant Robert and his wife, Linda. By Your Holy Spirit grant him grace that, by his example of faithful devotion to the Gospel and the Blessed Sacrament, he may continue to be a blessing to many. In Your mercy support and strengthen Robert and Linda, and grant them a cheerful spirit, peace, and blessedness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

L Go in peace and joy. May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Indeed, may the almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and bless and strengthen you for faithful service in His name.

C Amen.

Benediction



Recessional Hymn

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
 2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
 3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
 Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My
 I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the

love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
 heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
 Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.
 Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.

Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.
 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.
 Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Stir up one another to love and good works

Participants

Celebrant

The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Preece

Guest Preacher

The Rev. Ralph W. Hobratschk

Assisting Ministers

The Rev. James H. Ebersole

The Rev. Fred C. Gersch

The Rev. Kenneth M. Hennings, *Texas District President Emeritus*

The Rev. Dr. James Haner

The Rev. Richard E. Kurth

The Rev. Byron Williams Sr., *Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Dallas, Texas*

Lectors

Jennifer Hoepfner

The Rev. H. Melvin Symmank

The Rev. Benyam Weldtensai

Acolytes

Torch Bearers Channing Schkade, Noah Schkade

Crucifer Caleb Jeffcoat

Book Bearer Joshua Jeffcoat

Musicians

Brass Quartet Imperial Brass

Harp Naoko Nakamura, Alison Read

Timpani Jay Majernik

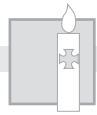
Choir Zion Lutheran Church Adult Choir

Minister of Music Dr. Scott M. Hyslop

Divine Service, Setting One from *Lutheran Service Book*

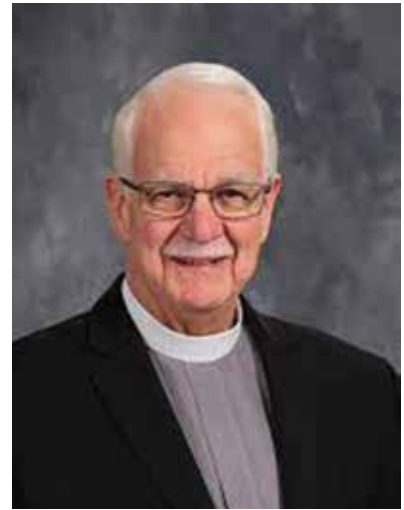
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Robert C. Preece

The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Preece, senior pastor at Zion Lutheran Church and School in Dallas, Texas, was born on July 3, 1947, at St. David's Hospital, Austin, and raised in Travis County. He accepted Zion's divine call to serve in 1990, having served the previous 17 years at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Illinois (metro St. Louis). A 1973 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, he earned the Doctor of Ministry degree in 1981 at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Pastor



Robert and his wife Linda have two sons, Justin (married to Cindy) and Matthew (married to Jenny), and three grandsons, Owen, Andrew, and Luke.

His wife, Linda Jean née Lege Preece, was director of Endowment Giving for Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, serving for 22 years at SMU. A professional musician, she contributed her talents at Zion as soloist, choir member, and director of the Women's Choir. She also served on various Zion committees and projects. From 1973 to 1990 she worked in the Music and Art Departments of Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis, Missouri.

Following his installation as Zion's senior pastor, Robert initiated and led the parish in two successful capital campaigns for the elimination of remaining debt on the 1982 church and administrative office buildings, as anticipated by Zion leadership,



Stir up one another to love and good works

with the subsequent Burning of the Mortgage in December 2002. Over the past two decades, the parish has undergone major improvements to its facilities, including reconstructing the parking area and expanding various pastoral services. The Boldly Building Zion Ministry Campaign (BBZM) efforts included three more capital campaigns, which provided for the music rehearsal hall, three middle school classrooms, a conference room, and school administrative facilities. In August 2023, the \$6.1 million recreation outreach center (ROC) was dedicated.

In 2022-2023 Robert was privileged to work as the bishop for the vicar and ministerial candidate Christopher D. Knepper of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

As part of Zion's active mission, ministry, and mercy-showing, Preece has led work and teaching trips to sister parishes in Guadalajara, Monterrey, and Mexico City, Mexico. He journeyed with Linda on teaching, preaching, and learning missions to countries throughout the world, including Africa, Europe and India. He traveled to Cuba to participate in building Lutheran churches; served in Kisumu, Kenya, at the non-profit mission Ndoto, and in Nairobi, Kenya, at a vision clinic with his son Justin, helping people both to see better and to see Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Domestically, he organized and participated in Zion mission trips, "Run, Pony, Run," to the Gulf Coast region to assist with recovery from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike, and others. Rehabilitation and relief work was also offered in Texas and New Mexico.

In the larger church, from 2000–2012 Pastor Preece was vice president of the Texas District–LCMS, Area B, serving 110 parishes in North Texas, the last six of those years as first vice president. He had an initiating role in the formation of the Lutheran Intercity Network Coalition (LINC) of North Texas and was also honored to serve on the board of directors for Lutheran Social Services of the South (1999-2008). He is currently on the board of directors for the American Luther Research Center and the Dallas Bach Society. For 30 years he has participated in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Lutheran Hymn Festival Committee, serving as chair for several terms.

Pastor Preece still drives the '53 Ford ("the gray ghost"). He began playing competitive baseball in 1956 and played competitive slow-pitch softball until March 12, 2020, for a 64-year run until Covid-19 closed the diamonds down. (Humbly, said he, on that day he was the winning pitcher and two for three at the plate.)



With loving gratitude and deep regard for the parishioners, ministerial crew, faculty, staff, janitors, architects, construction workers, and contractors engaged and worked with at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Illinois, and at Zion Lutheran Church and School, Dallas, Texas, Robert and Linda say, “Thank you!”

His dearest Linda was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s in 2018. “For better for worse, in sickness and in health,” he has sought to be her faithful primary caregiver, in reality doing so over the past seven years. She currently lives at Arden Courts Memory Care Center a mile from their home in Richardson. He is with her and helps her twice every day, morning and night. *Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.*

They also express their gratitude for the patience, love, and care of their supportive family:

Justin, Cindy, and Owen

Matthew, Jenny, Andrew, and Luke

(And the now-sainted holy hounds of heaven, Dallas and Pepper)

Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam.

Not to us, Lord, not to us, but give glory to your name.

Psalm 115:1 (*Biblia Sacra Vulgata*)



(If I’ve given offense to any, I beg forgiveness.

I want to be at peace with all in Christ. **Pax Domini.**)

Zion Lutheran Church

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