



THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 • 9:30AM DIVINE SERVICE II

ZION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

PROCLAIMING CHRIST THROUGH FAITH, WORSHIP, AND EDUCATION.

WELCOME VISITORS! — We are so glad you came to Zion today.

Do come and worship the Lord again with us. We would love for you to scan the code and fill out a Connect Card! If you live in this area and do not have a regular church home, I would be most pleased to talk with you about membership at Zion Lutheran Church. —Rev. James Ebersole, Pastor



ZION'S NURSERY — We welcome all children and infants to our worship services and encourage their attendance. If the need arises to take your child out of the service, please feel free to use the staffed nursery located through Trinity Hall.

HOLY COMMUNION — As Christians we believe in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, together with the Bread and Wine, in the Sacrament, given to us for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of our faith, and as an expression of the unity of our faith. Those who profess this faith, are baptized, penitent, and acknowledge Christ as their Savior are welcome to participate in the Sacrament.

9 :30 AM
✠ DIVINE SERVICE II ✠
LSB 167

The Service portions that vary from week to week (Proper) are printed below.

**The Service itself including the Responses may be found
in Lutheran Service Book (LSB), beginning on page 167**

PRELUDE

Please stand and face the Processional Cross, turning as it passes by.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* LSB 902

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
LSB 167

INVOCATION

EXHORTATION

CONFESSION OF SINS

ABSOLUTION

SERVICE OF THE WORD
LSB 168

KYRIE (*Stand*) LSB 168

HYMN OF PRAISE *Gloria in Excelsis* LSB 170

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY LSB 172

[P] Let us pray. O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Sit*) Ezekiel 33:7-9

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But

if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 13:1-10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.

Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE (*Stand*)

HOLY GOSPEL

LSB 173

Matthew 18:1-20

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you,

unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save the lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Sit)*
HOMILY

My Soul, now Praise Your Maker

LSB 820

JUST THIS ONE TIME Matthew 18:7-10

I. The Prevalence of Temptations

II. Physical and Visual Temptations

NICENE CREED (<i>Stand</i>)	LSB 174
PRAYER FOR THE SCHOOL: <i>For our 6th Graders and their families, and our classroom teacher Mrs. Juli Schkade.</i>	
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH	LSB 175
OFFERING/VOLUNTARY (<i>Sit</i>)	
OFFERTORY (<i>Stand</i>)	LSB 176

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LSB 177-181

PREFACE	
PROPER PREFACE	
SANCTUS	
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	
LORD'S PRAYER	
WORDS OF OUR LORD	
PAX DOMINI	
AGNUS DEI	
DISTRIBUTION (<i>Sit</i>)	
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us
	<i>Children of the Heavenly Father</i>
	LSB 711
	LSB 725
POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (<i>Stand</i>)	Thank the Lord
	LSB 181
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT	LSB 183
BENEDICTION	
RECESSIONAL HYMN	<i>Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways</i>
	LSB 707

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Celebrant/Homilist	Rev. Fred Gersch
Lector	Valerie Green
Organist	Dr. Scott Hyslop
Sacristan	Valerie R. Green
Ushers	Board of Elders
Audio and Facilities Arrangements	Larry Wagner, Caleb Jeffcoat