

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Service of Prayer and Preaching
Revelation 7*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IDEAS, PLEASE! We're looking for ideas for sermon series themes for 2015. If you have a topic, book, doctrine, issue, or area of interest that you would like to hear a sermon (or sermons) on, please let Pastor Duncan know. Thanks!

NEW DIRECTORY! It's been four years since we had our last Church Directory done; it's time for a new one. Family portraits will be taken 11/19-22; sign-ups are going on as you read this! We will have someone on Sunday available to help you sign-up for a time.

WHAT'S NEXT? The sanctuary has been renovated, we have air conditioning, and we added a Music Director. What's next for Zion? The next project we have in store is to renovate the kitchen. Look for more information about our Kitchen Refresh in the monthly newsletter, in bulletins (like this one) and on-line.

ZION'S GOT TALENT. Do you like to sing? Do other people like it when you sing? Does your shower listen to you sing? There are sign-up sheets in the narthex area for the Adult Choir and Youth Choir at Zion! There's also a place for you to sign-up if you can play a musical instrument (or instruments). We are expanding our music ministry and we want YOU to be a part of it! More information will be available in Zion's monthly newsletter and on-line.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. Starting in January, the women's Bible study (currently Tuesday @ 7:30pm) and the men's Bible study (currently Saturday @ 8:00am) will both be spending time in the same study on the book of Galatians. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and in this space. Right here.

MEN'S RETREAT. Attention men, mark your calendars! We're going back to Camp Pioneer for our second men's retreat November 13-16th. We'll be talking about men's issues and what it's like for us to stand out as Christians in the world. The cost is \$150 (Thursday-Sunday) or \$125 (Friday-Sunday) plus the cost for breakfasts and dinners. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex area.

FREE COFFEE FRIDAY. We need your help! Before we can give away coffee and doughnuts, we need a design for the coffee mugs. We're looking for something—a verse or a phrase, along with an attractive design that can go on the coffee cups we'll be using for Free Coffee Friday. You e-mail your designs to Pastor Duncan or the Church Office: pastor@zxcb.org or secretary@zxcb.org We'll be taking ideas through the end of the year. Thanks for your help and being a part of Free Coffee Friday!!

The Service of Prayer and Preaching

Introduction to Worship

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ: as we prepare to listen to God's Word, profess our faith in him as he has been revealed to us in Scripture, and call upon him with our prayers, let us first confess our sins and receive his forgiveness.

People: **Father in heaven, thank you for giving me both the time and desire to come to church this evening to listen to your word and spend time with you in prayer. But if I were to listen to you now, I would be distracted by my sins and iniquities by which I have offended you and hurt my neighbor. And so, in order that I may worship you with a clean conscience and without distraction, I ask that you would forgive my sins, blot out my iniquities, and remove all that would separate me from you as far as the east is from the west. Have mercy on me, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

(Please be seated)

The Reading: Revelation 7

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,

from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,
from the tribe of Gad 12,000,
from the tribe of Asher 12,000,
from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,
from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,
from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,
from the tribe of Levi 12,000,
from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,
from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,
from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,
from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

“Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,

"they are before the throne of God

and serve him day and night in his temple;

and he who sits on the throne

will shelter them with his presence.

'Never again will they hunger;

never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,'^[a]

nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the center of the throne

will be their shepherd;

'he will lead them to springs of living water.'^[b]

'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'^[c]"

Sermon

(Please stand)

The Nicene Creed

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 on 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 Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers

For the prayers this evening, you are invited to come to the Communion Rail and kneel. In between the petitions, we will observe silence while we pray to the Lord from our heart.

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:
Pastor: For our congregation: that the Lord would guide the decisions that are made and lead us in proclaiming the good news of Jesus, that those who hear it may have their lives changed and saved. Let us pray.
Pastor: For our families: that we would be good examples for them and that they would be led to greater faith and obedience, experience the joy of their salvation, and trust in Christ for all things. Let us pray.
Pastor: For our friends and acquaintances: that our witness to them in word and deed would be used by the Holy Spirit for the glory of God. Let us pray.
Pastor: For people we know who are ill: that the Lord would grant them healing from their afflictions. Let us pray.
Pastor: For the lonely: that they would enjoy fellowship with God and that our Lord would bless them with companionship. Let us pray.
Pastor: For those who grieve: that the Lord would strengthen their faith in him, the forgiveness of sins and resurrection unto eternal life, and that he would turn their mourning to joy in his time. Let us pray.
Pastor: For our brothers and sisters in Christ who faithfully witness to the resurrection and the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us pray.
Pastor: For the concerns we have in our hearts. Let us pray.
Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting in his promises, we are bold to pray:
People: 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.

The Benediction