

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching
May 6th, 2015



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY is May 31 at the 10:30 service. Our Confirmands will be making their vows of faithfulness and desire to join our congregation as well as receiving their First Communion. We'll be celebrating after the service in the Fellowship Hall; all are welcome.

INTERESTED IN JOINING? We are having a New Member Instruction Weekend (we'll think of a more catchy name for it, we promise) June 12th and 13th. If you are interested in joining Zion or want to know more about what we believe, mark your calendars and look for more information in this space, the church's website and the May Newsletter!

ORANGE-OUT. We've ordered our shirts for the Orange-Out on 5/17. If you ordered shirts, you can pick them up at church this weekend, or during the week during Office Hours. We are trying to raise awareness of the persecuted church and will be helping with LCMS relief efforts in areas where Christians are being persecuted for their faith.

CAR WASH. Come on out Saturday 5/30 to Zion's Annual End of Spring Car Wash! We'll be washing and detailing cars for free from 10-2 in the church parking lot. We can use your help washing, vacuuming, drying, spritzing and spraying, grilling and serving. Oh, did I forget to mention that in addition to getting a free car wash and detail, you'll also get something to eat while you wait? Absolutely! Mark your calendars and come out to Zion on Saturday, May 30th!

FREE COFFEE FRIDAY! Come join us this Friday in the church parking lot (at 7am), or in the church kitchen (6:30am) for Free Coffee Friday. We'll be giving away coffee and doughnuts and the good news of Jesus. Hope to see you here, this Friday @ 6:30 or 7:00am!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Crew leader and helper positions are still available. We are also looking for help in the nursery. Contact Katie Gielarowski or email secretary@zlcg.org to volunteer.

Welcome to worship!

This evening we are going to take a look at some of what it means that Jesus is 100% God and 100% Man. In our text for this evening, John 10:22-39, we see that not everyone who heard the good news that Jesus is God and Man received it willingly. And today this is still the case. The divinity of Jesus is denied by several groups claiming allegiance to Christ and the Christian faith--Jehovah's Witness and the Mormons, is a major stumbling block for all Muslims, and is still denied by the Jews.

So why is it important that we profess the deity of Jesus? After all, if we can agree on his teachings and believe in his death and resurrection for our salvation, why does it matter if we don't all agree on what Jesus actually is? Teaching that Jesus is God does two things: first, it reassures us that the sacrifice made on Good Friday is sufficient for the entire human race. For if only a good man died on the cross, how could we be sure that the sacrifice would be sufficient to atone for all sins? But if God experienced death for us, then we can be confident that, in the words of 1 John 1:7, "the blood of Jesus his son, cleanses us from all sin." Second, Jesus himself taught that he was divine; in the words of John 10: "I and the Father are one." We know the heart of God through the works and teaching of Jesus because Jesus is God. Jesus is not just someone who taught ABOUT God; as God, Jesus revealed God to us through what he said and did. We can know the heart of the Father by getting to know the person of the Son.

I hope that you will enjoy our time together this evening as we take a look at what it means that Jesus is God and Man. There were also some very good questions from last Sunday that I think will help you wrestle with the topic at hand--and we'll get to those as well this evening.

God bless your time in worship!
-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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The Service of Prayer and Preaching

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books)

The Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, Scripture is clear that even those who are living under the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit mess up and, all too often, sin. These sins, left unchecked, would erode our most precious faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy for the sake of his Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

People: **Almighty God, we confess that we have all sinned against you, against each other, and against our neighbors. Not only have we hurt ourselves and others, but we have dishonored you. Therefore, we ask that you would forgive us. Set us on the right path and teach us to live our days in faith and obedience. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Reading: John 10:22-39

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish,

and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one." The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." And many believed in him there.

Sermon

(Please stand)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and buried.

He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Prayers

For the prayers this evening, you are invited to come to the Communion Rail and kneel.

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Pastor: For our congregation: that the Spirit of God would protect our doctrine and life together, that both may agree with the Word of God, so that we might walk in true faith and obedience. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our families: that the Lord would bless them in every way, that their faith in Christ would grow daily, and that they would make time in God's word and prayer a priority in their lives. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our friends and acquaintances: that they would come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and that God would make us bold to speak the name of Jesus to those walking in darkness. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our enemies: that we would be reconciled to each other by the peace of God that passes all understanding so that our witness to them in word and deed would bear the fruit of repentance and faith. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For people we know who are ill: that the Lord would demonstrate his authority over sickness through restoring them to health. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who govern, that they would faithfully discharge the duties of their office with wisdom and integrity. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who put themselves in harm's way on behalf of others, and all whose work is dangerous: that our God would keep them safe and give them the skills to do their job well. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the persecuted church: that God would grant them boldness to speak the name of Jesus, surround them with his divine protection, and lead those who persecute them to saving faith in Christ. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those considering membership at Zion, that their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord would grow and be strengthened through the Word of God and that they would find their identity in Him. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the upcoming women's retreat: that those who attend would have their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord strengthened, and that God would grow and mature the bonds of fellowship that the women enjoy with each other. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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