

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

June 16, 2024 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford



JUNETEENTH WORSHIP

PRELUDE “My Father Watches Over Me”

(1910; W.C. Martin/C.H. Gabriel)

Carl Cole

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.
God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, + the bread of life, you are shown God’s mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through
the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord our God is great.

The Lord is worthy of our praise.

Come; let us remember the great things God has done.

Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.

Celebration rises, up from the deep places,
finding voice in the light and air no longer denied.

Celebration rises, not blind to the suffering, not blind to the sorrow.

Celebration comes at a cost.

We remember our ancestors,
the great cloud of witnesses now one with God.

Remembering the ones led to freedom by Harriet;

Remembering lives and freedom stolen.

We acknowledge the generations that fought, died,
and led us to freedom from slavery persecution,
Jim Crow laws, inequitable access to rights and resources in this society .

Celebration rises, recognizing the challenges yet ahead.

Celebration rises from the voices of 1865 in Texas!

Celebration rises, resisting illusions,
to be embraced by the real and abiding presence of God who breaks our
chains, and sets us free for freedom, in power and love and joy.

**Celebration rises, with the power of healing wings and promise to
endure. Celebration rises, celebrating that by God's grace,**

Celebrating that the fullness of my humanity does not diminish yours
and the fullness of your humanity does not diminish mine.

I am because You are, You are because I am.

Let us not forget our past and those who have gone before us.

We remember our ancestors, our history, and we name our future.

Let us lift up our voices and sing.

Through the weary years and silent tears, we praise God today!

We praise God as our Source, Our Savior Jesus the Christ,
Our Sustainer and Counsel and Comforter the Holy Spirit.

Thanks Be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading" Red Hymnal #401



Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
 1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.



Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
 It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
 Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
 nor rootless liberty;
 turn disquiet to contentment,
 doubt into certainty. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
 unswayed by earth's allure.
 Ever grant us zealous fitness,
 which you alone assure. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|---|

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Children of WOW Guitarists—Pastor Denver & Nathi
“This Little Light of Mine”
“He’s Got the Whole World”
“Jesus is the Light”

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we

are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.¹⁴ For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

Red Hymnal #172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."³⁰ He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;³² yet when

it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SONG “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” Red Hymnal #773

Precious Lord, take my hand,
 lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
 lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
 precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
 Hear my cry, hear my call,
 hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears
 and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP BLESSING

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING

“Canon in D”

Rockford Music Academy

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is near the back, pulpit side and you can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code.

The Prayer Table is available for you to write a prayer request and place on the cross on the table. Prayer requests will be shared with a group of people who pray at Zion. You may take a prayer shawl from the worship space if you would like.



TABLE BLESSING “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises” Red Hymnal #535

Refrain

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.

1 Christ the Lord to us said:

I am wine, I am bread,

I am wine, I am bread,

give to all who thirst and hunger. ***Refrain***

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion will be received up front. Please receive the wafer into your hand and take a cup from the communion assistant.

The inner ring is grape juice and the outer rings are wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

If you would like the individual prepared disposable communion, they are in a basket in the center of the worship space.

COMMUNION SONGS “In Christ There Is No East or West”

Red Hymnal #650

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Red Hymnal #779

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound; that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear; the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise; than when we'd first begun.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG “We Shall Overcome”

We shall overcome; We shall overcome;
We shall overcome, some day
Oh, deep in my heart; I do believe; We shall overcome, someday

We'll walk hand in hand; We'll walk hand in hand;
We'll walk hand in hand, some day
Oh, deep in my heart; I do believe; We shall overcome, someday

We shall live in peace; We shall live in peace;
We shall live in peace, someday
Oh, deep in my heart; I do believe; We shall overcome, someday

We are not afraid; We are not afraid;
We are not afraid, today
Oh, deep in my heart; I do believe; We shall overcome, someday

We shall overcome; We shall overcome;
We shall overcome, some day
Oh, deep in my heart; I do believe; We shall overcome, someday

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Go Down Moses”

Rockford Music Academy

WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant: Janice Forrest
Media: Cameron Kellermann
Musicians: Mary Shore, Carl Cole, Pastor Denver Bitner, Nathi Perkins-Gama, Rachel Handlin, Michael Beert, Aria Beert, Kamyra Brunson, Zamarianna Brunson, Xeonna Brunson, Malayja Brunson, Thoren Brunson, Ryleigh Dixon, Royce Smith, and Rockford Music Academy
Reader: Nathi Perkins-Gama
Sound: Deangelo Brunson
Usher: Charles Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson
Fellowship: Brunch (Proceeds benefit 2024 Civil Rights Trip to Atlanta)

BAGGING FOR CORNUCOPIA

We are in need of plastic shopping bags for the Pantry. Please drop off at the office and join us on the fourth Monday, at 1:00 PM, in the Youth Center for lots of fun while we fluff, & bag (Coffee & treats too) for Cornucopia Pantry! Thanks, Karen Kermgard.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOZ- Cornucopia Food Pantry & Save the Dates:

Save the Dates: Thursday July 18th - 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall BUNCO.

Continue to look for updates in the Grapevine and weekly bulletins: WOZ Board: Sue Drilling, Maggi Hallin, Karen Kermgard, Kathy Rasch, & Linda Reinhardt.

Flower ministry sponsorships are available.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Neal and Deb Tolodxi,
In Honor of Veronica Guadalupe's Quinceañera



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

CROSS-CULTURAL
INTERGENERATIONAL INTERFAITH
**ZION'S 2024
CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP
TO ATLANTA**

June 20-25, 2024



Bunco
Women of Zion

**July 18, 2024
at 1:00pm**



Sponsored and Held at Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

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PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◇ Pastor Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka Parish
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Sepuka/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Chiquita Bills, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Norma Daugherty, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Jonelle Haas, Vanda Nielsen, Linda Reinhardt, Ron Simmons, Wayne Spitzer, and Carrie Steder, Brian Veitch, and Megan Zaphel.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Pastoral Intern Rachel. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Juneteenth Brunch - Fellowship Hall downstairs
Monday	8:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Making—Kitchen
Tuesday	8:30am	Staff Meeting
	3:30pm	Building and Grounds
Wednesday		Juneteenth
	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Making—Kitchen
	12:00pm	Miss Carly's Board Meeting—Youth Center
Thursday	7:00am	Civil Rights Trip (6/20-6/25)
	9:00am	Midtown Market—RPS Lot across from Katie's Cup
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lesson—Youth Center
Saturday	8:00am	Bike the City—Katie's Cup
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
Sunday	9:15am	Worship

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* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93

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