

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 29, 2025

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Welcome to Zion. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We believe that all people of every race, gender identity, sexual orientation, place of origin, health/illness experience, physical and mental ability, education, and economic situation are beloved children of God, and are worthy of love, dignity, and respect. We are committed to creating a place of belonging, wellbeing, and full inclusion for people who have been historically excluded and marginalized by church and society. We rejoice that you have joined us today and we believe that the Holy Spirit has brought you to the table of grace. We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life. Today we celebrate two great figures of the early church, Peter and Paul, who represent the spread of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and, according to tradition, were martyred on this date. The witness of Peter and Paul inspires us as we seek ways to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our contemporary context.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,
**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
You have given us the gifts of your whole creation,
but we overstep our place as stewards of the earth, neglecting, abusing, and
destroying the precious gifts of soil, water, plant, and animal. We fail to honor
the goodness and richness of creation's diversity.
We ignore your command of sabbath rest.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.
 In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, I declare to you that
 all your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen.

GREETING HYMN "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" (ELW 817)



1	Tú	has	ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla,	no has bus -
1	You	have	come down to the lake - shore	seek - ing
2	You	know	full well what I have, Lord:	nei - ther
3	You	need	my hands, my ex - haus - tion,	work - ing
4	You	who	have fished oth - er wa - ters;	you, the



ca - do	ni a sa - bios ni a	ri - cos;	tan só - lo
nei - ther	the wise nor the	wealth - y,	but on - ly
trea - sure	nor wea - pons for	con - quest,	just these my
love for	the rest of the	wea - ry -	a love that's
long - ing	of souls that are	yearn - ing:	O lov - ing



quie - res	que yo	te si - ga.
ask - ing	for me	to fol - low.
fish - nets	and will	for work - ing.
will - ing	to go	on lov - ing.
Friend, you	have come	to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,

has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my

bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

GREETING

P The unrelenting grace, unfailing love, and indescribable peace of God, the Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit dwell in your hearts through faith.

C **And also in your heart.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.

15 Then the Lord said to [Elijah,] “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.”

19 So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. 20 He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” Then Elijah said to him, “Go back again; for what have I done to you?” 21 He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

R Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

1 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

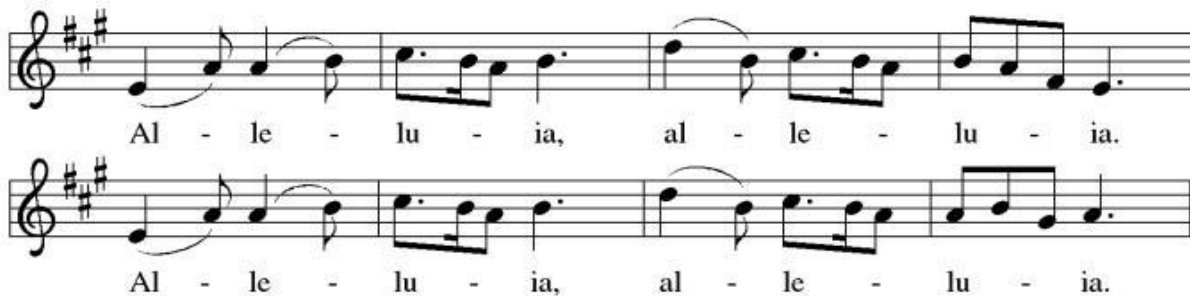
22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

R Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “*Celtic Alleluia*” (ELW 174)



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

51 When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; 53 but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

54 When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 Then they went on to another village.

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60 But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON Melissa Hoffman, Minister of Pastoral Care

HYMN OF THE DAY "O God, Who Gives Us Life" (ACS 1086)



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

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IONIAN CREED

(a modern creed from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, with revisions by Dr. Lenahan)

**We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth,
of fish and birds, of cattle and creeping things,
and of humankind, the bearers of the divine image.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor;
healer of the sick; welcomer of the excluded;
contender against evil; tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,
he died alone and forsaken.
He descended into the earth
to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Joining the faithful around the world, we pray for the church, the whole creation, and all who are in need of God's mercy. The response is Gracious Spirit, **hear our prayer.***

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.

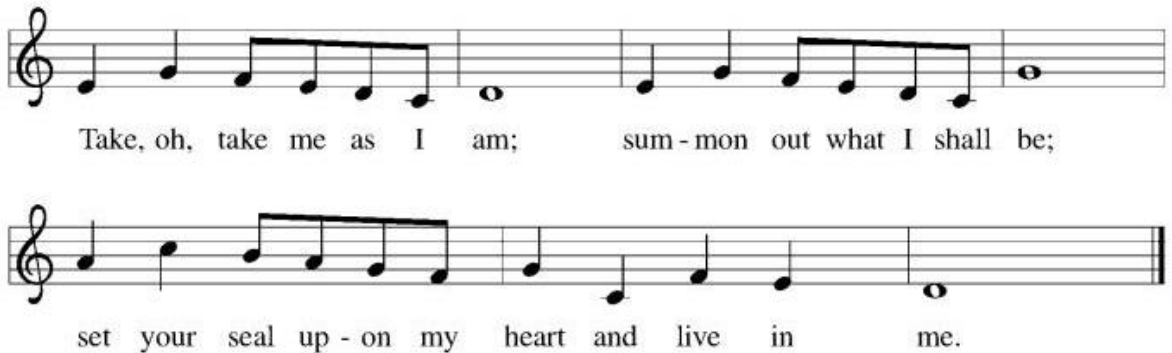
C **And also with you.**

We share a sign of peace with one another; a hug. Handshake, and the words “peace be with you”.

OFFERING

*We receive an offering for the mission and ministry of the church. Your gifts support weekly worship, pastoral ministry, and service to those in need locally and globally. **Please deposit your gifts in the offering plate located on the stand in the back of the sanctuary.** You may also give online at www.zionakron.org.*

OFFERING SONG “Take, Oh, Take me as I am” (ELW 814)



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you**

P Lift up your hearts

C **We lift them up to the Lord**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The pastor gives thanks to God for the gifts of creation, for the cross of Christ and the means of salvation, for the bread and cup that become His body and blood, and for the Holy Spirit, sent to dwell in our hearts and minds by faith. 'Eucharist' literally means 'thanksgiving' and so we come to the table with thankful hearts lifted up to God, the giver of life.

We hear the instructions of St. Paul to the Corinthian church on celebrating the Lord's Supper; and we hear the words of Jesus to his disciples: "Take and eat, take and drink, this is my body, this is my blood, given and shed for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Trust that Christ is present for you in this meal.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

MEAL

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C Blest are all invited to the feast.

COMMUNION

We practice the ancient rite of the Lord's Supper every week. All people who hunger for God's grace and peace in their lives are welcome to receive the bread and cup. Please come forward in the center aisle, take an empty cup, kneel at the altar, and return by the side aisle.

In this meal, you are joined with Christ, your sins are forgiven, and you receive God's strength for daily life. We are sent from the table to serve others in his name. We offer gluten free bread and grape juice, as an alternative to the bread and wine, for those who require or prefer it. All are fed at the table of grace!

LAMB OF GOD (ELW 195)

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, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
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COMMUNION SONG “*Here Is Bread*” (ELW 483)

Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us;
Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

*Refrain: In this bread, there is healing, in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the spirit, Christ is with us here.*

Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here. *Refrain.*

Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.
We’ll proclaim til he comes Jesus crucified. *Refrain.*

BLESSING

P The body and blood of Christ Jesus give you hearts of courage, souls of peace, minds of wisdom, and strength for service in his name.

C Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray: Mothering God,

C **You gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG “*Will You Come and Follow Me*” (ELW 798)



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



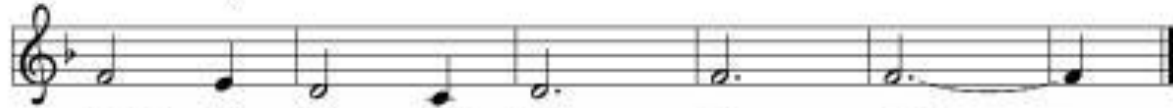
know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?
 pray'r in you and you in me?
 mean in you and you in me?
 sound in you and you in me?
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace, love your neighbor as yourself.

C **In the name of Jesus, we will!**

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CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Betsy, Ron Ayers, Suzanne Baumgardner, Jeanette Beck, Doris Bernadicci, Bonnie Bleacher, Olivia Campbell, Stephanie Campbell, Shahnaz Daneschvar, Logan Dohner, Arthur Drescher, Tracy Fox and family, Karen Graham, Anna Hertzog, Tim Hertzog, Lois Hicks, Len and Janet Hoffman, Waltraut Karklins, Michael Kelly, Karen Laudenslager, Justin Lehman, Jessie Long, Jacob Longenecker, Linda Losito, Susan Mindermann, Svetlana Nikin, Gisela Pilarte, Marie Rosati, Carol Royer and Peyton Royer, Judy Schaffer, Dale Shepherd, Jerry Solomon, Martha Weidman and Family, Jim and Sandy Young.

COMING UP NEXT

Every Wednesday, 8:15-9:30 am: Morning Meditation. At Zion Lutheran Church.

June 29, 11:15am: Sunday Learning Group. Meet at Michael & Irma Kelly's Home
85 Saint Matthew Road, Lititz

July 6, 5pm: Dinner Church.

July 10, 7pm: Congregational Council meeting.

July 13, 11:15am: Rail Trail Church. Meet in pavilion behind the Warwick Twp building.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

On the 29th – Michael and Carol Royer

On the 2nd – Len and Janet Hoffman

On the 5th – Jeff Neikirk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Learning Group

"We Make The Road By Walking"
1st and 3rd Sundays ~ 11:15 AM

Next Meeting:
Sunday June 29th
at Michael & Irma Kelly's Home
85 Saint Matthew Road, Lititz

The Sunday Learning Group which has been studying Brian McLaren's book "We Make The Road By Walking" will have its last gathering of the season on June 29th at the home of Michael & Irma Kelly. We will be discussing the "First Quarter Queries" (page 61). Participants are invited to reflect on each of the seven queries ahead of time, journaling if desired. When we come together on June 29, we will share our reflections with one another. — We will also be choosing a date to begin our study again in the fall.

Please bring your book. If you need a book or have questions, contact Missy Hoffman at mkh060455@gmail.com.

Community Meal

Zion will host our second community meal of the year on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at Bethany United Church of Christ at 6 pm. Our menu will be fresh fruit cup, hamburger bbq, potato salad, lemonade, water, tea and coffee with ice cream for dessert. Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for food items needed and help to set up, serve and clean up. All help is welcomed. Any questions call Jeanette Beck at 717-733-0897. A special need will be for a group to gather on Wednesday July 23rd at 10am in Zion's kitchen to make fruit salad.

DID YOU KNOW?

On our website, www.zionakron.org, you can safely give a gift? You can give one time or set up a personal account to give weekly or monthly. The GIVE online button at the bottom of the home page takes you to our giving portal.

We have designated gifts for:

- **Camperships** to send youth to summer camp
- **Peter's Porch**
- **Good Samaritan** fund (a discretionary account created by Don Haverstick in honor of his wife Norma, that provides housing assistance)
- **POWER Interfaith**
- **Wittel Farm**
- **ELCA World Hunger**
- **General Fund** to support the staff and ongoing ministry at Zion. Love is shown with generosity.

Thank you for sharing *your* gifts with us!



Zion Lutheran Church

435 Main Street, Akron PA 17501 717. 859. 2100

Check our website: www.zionakron.org and Facebook page.