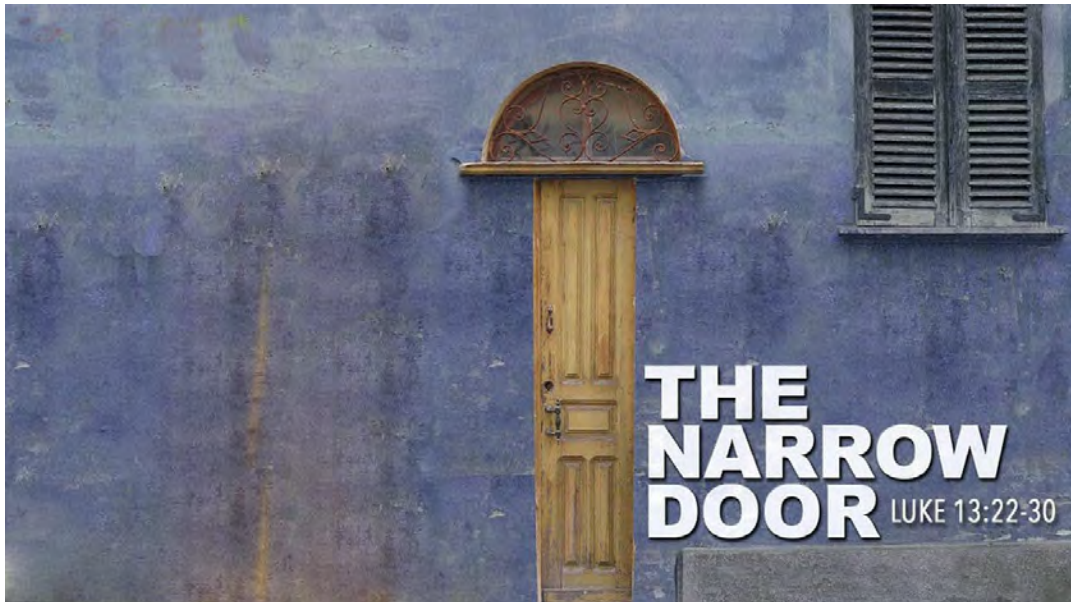


The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025



Zion Lutheran Church

23167 Topeka Street

Vassar, KS 66543

785-828-4482

www.ZionVassar.org

Growing Together in Christ's Love and Grace

Let us know you're here!

Visitors: Scan the QR code

- or -

TXT the Keyword CONNECT
to **785-828-4482** to fill out a
simple online form or
submit a prayer request.



Members: TXT "CHECK" to Check-In.

Thank You!

AS WE GATHER

The Lord makes all things new in heaven and on earth. We struggle against sin; Jesus sheds blood to acquit. Sons and daughters of Israel rebel; the Lord disciplines and loves. Punishment is temporal; peaceful righteousness is forever. We are heirs of this new paradox - worthy of disdain; but in Christ we inherit His divine favor. Believers do not weep and gnash their teeth. But in heaven, faith-filled hearts will be engaged in unbridled confession and worship of Jesus.

915 TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US



- 1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.


Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand as you are able and without pain)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING VERSICLES

L This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C Teach me Your paths.

L Sanctify us in Your truth.

C Your Word is truth.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

(Sit)

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

¹⁸“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

²²“For as the new heavens and the new earth
that I make
shall remain before me, says the LORD,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.

²³From new moon to new moon,
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
declares the LORD.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE GRADUAL

Psalm 117; antiphon: Psalm 96:6a; 115:18

Splendor and majesty are before him;
we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Splendor and majesty are before him;

we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

EPISTLE READING

L A reading from Hebrews, the twelfth chapter.

Hebrews 12:4–24

⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

¹⁸For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

C Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

L People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.

C Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory be to You, O Lord.

Luke 13:22–30

²²[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, ²⁴"Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

²⁵When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.'

²⁶Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' ²⁸In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *"The Narrow Door..."*

(Sit)

526 YOU ARE THE WAY; THROUGH YOU ALONE



1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True
3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant



we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -
claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
us that way to know, That truth to keep, that



God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.

Tune: The CL Psalms of David, 1615, Edinburgh

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON: *“Held in the Grip of Grace”*

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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 was 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.

(Stand)

PRAYER

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

(Sit)

OFFERING

*Members simply text the word **CHECK** to **785-828-4482** then click & submit online to **Check In** for attendance during the day. Or please complete the “**Let’s Connect**” **Card** in the pews with your Name(s), email, and phone and hand to the ushers as they are returning from the altar. **VISITORS**, please hold your card to give to Pastor at the door and receive a ‘Thank You’ Gift.*

(Stand)

LORD’S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

L O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

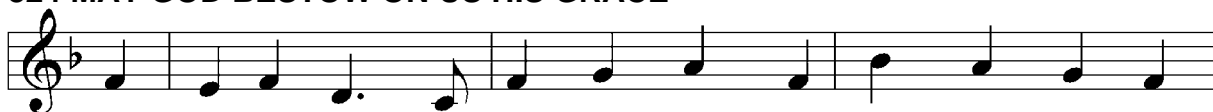
L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

MORNING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen.

824 MAY GOD BESTOW ON US HIS GRACE



1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -
 2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry
 △ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -



vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face
 na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
 creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,



To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing
 The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the
 Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,



health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,
 earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;
 God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!



And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out
 Thy peo - ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
 Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -



mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.
 nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.
 sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

BLESSING

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Serving In Worship Today

<i>Greeters</i>	Larry & Toni Wendling
<i>Organist</i>	Tanya Fraker
<i>Acolyte</i>	Phillip Wendling
<i>Reader</i>	Clint Sturdy
<i>Ushers</i>	Caleb Anschutz, Shane Anschutz Clint Silver, Marvin Zorn
<i>Elder</i>	Greg Schultz

Serving Next Week

<i>Greeters</i>	Delmer & JoEllen Haufler
<i>Organist</i>	SOS/iPad
<i>Acolyte</i>	Loren Eissler
<i>Reader</i>	Greg Schultz
<i>Ushers</i>	Jeff Heidenreich, Kelly Persinger, Reed Silver, Donice Browning
<i>Elder</i>	Greg Schultz

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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IN OUR PRAYERS

HEALING AND CARE: for those suffering from cancer: Stu Duncan, Jenny Peimann, Dan Henderson, Sheri Bravenec, Bonnie Von Lehe, Frank Wagner, Nancy Lahm, Barbara Feltner, Joetta Asbury, Tom Arb, Sharon Eilert (Eva's sister).

CONTINUED HEALING: Christopher Smith, Gabriella Schultz, Michael Nally, Charlie Timberlane, Logan Brady, Kathy Bigham, Jean Curtis, Carl Sluder, Raymond Zorn, Lyn Wren, David Wagner, Cecil McMullen, Ann Becker, Mark Feltner, Darrell Sturdy, Diane Schulze, Mac McDonald, Keith Scheid, Pete Scheid, Glenn Templeton, Betty Meyer, Bill McDonald, Harley Browning.

SHUT-INS: Don & Ann Becker, Virginia Elmore, Jim & Pat Croucher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME to all who worship with us this morning, especially our guests. You are invited for coffee and snacks after our service. You are also invited to stay for Bible Study and Sunday School.

HELP WANTED: Church Secretary.

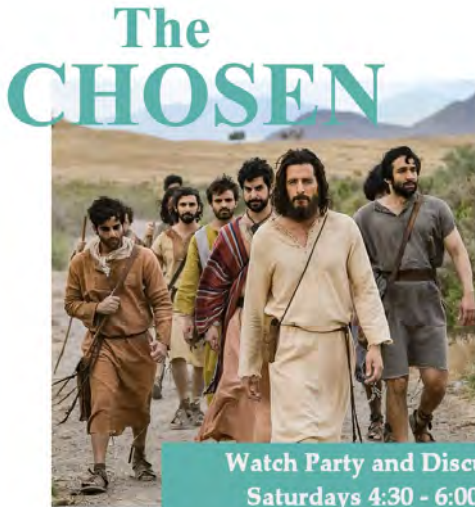
Part-time, up to 8 flexible hrs./wk. (ex: could be 4 hrs. 2x/wk...). Job Description available in Church Office. If interested, please see one of the Elders. Job will be posted until filled.

AUGUST 31: Hearts of Mercy &

Compassion seeks Volunteers for this ministry opportunity, averaging about 1-2 hours per month. See Pastor Jim.



NYG '25 PRESENTATION – Sept. 7: Following service that Sunday, the Youth Group will share some of their experiences and reflections of their visit to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering and looking forward to 2028.



The CHOSEN Study...

Saturdays, Starting Sept. 13, 2025, 4:30-6 pm. We will be starting a study that involves “The CHOSEN” TV Series.

1. Gathering together at Zion in the Fellowship Hall to read some short scripture Texts that relate to the Episode, then 2. Watch the Episode, and 3. Discussion from an LCMS perspective. Exchange ideas, share your reactions, etc.

INVITE someone!!!

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY, September 21, 2025: This is a Nationwide Campaign of Christian Churches inviting people to come Back to Church. We here at Zion were among the early adopters and are listed on the national map to be found by anyone who might be interested in finding a church to attend. What will we be doing on that Sunday, you ask? Quite simply... Church! You are special in the manner of being a warm, friendly, and welcoming church family – so just be that!

And, if you know someone who’s been absent for awhile, **INVITE** them to come... Back to Church. *Because...*

“Life is Better TOGETHER.”



NOTE TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS

We are very glad you are here! Our services may look and sound different (other worldly, perhaps), but please bear with us! We worship the way we do for a reason and there is a certain rhythm involved. We gather to receive the gifts of salvation our Living Triune God comes to serve through His Word and Sacrament. In these gifts we receive the enlivening of our faith, forgiveness from our sins, and life eternal. Worship is the unwrapping of these gifts. The liturgy, hymns, and preaching proclaim His Word to us. They remind us of the promise of salvation as a gift we have in our baptism, and they prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace God comes to serve us in this Divine Service, and so our worship is centered around receiving these gifts of God through faith.

Pastor Jim Kirschenmann

GV (314) 884-0828

Email: Pastor@ZionVassar.org

You may Call or TXT the Church Office Phone

Number at ANYTIME: **785-828-4482**

Email: Office@ZionVassar.org

Service Time: Sunday 9:00 am

Bible Study and Sunday School: 10:30 am

Services Streamed on Social Media...

<https://bit.ly/m/zionvassar>

Take this WITH you - Pass this bulletin along to someone to invite them...

PRAYER/CHAT: Text 833-374-4619



Scan me