

Zion Lutheran Church



THANKSGIVING EVE
November 25, 2015

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Happy Thanksgiving!

This evening we come together to give thanks to God for his many blessings to us. Our text for this evening shares a memorable encounter between Jesus and a rich tax collector named Zacchaeus. In it, Jesus invites himself over to the house of the short tree-climbing man. To the dismay of the crowds, Jesus allows himself to be the guest of this “sinner,” who received Jesus joyfully. His encounter with Jesus compelled Zacchaeus to give half of his goods to the poor and to give back four times what he had taken through fraud.

In only ten verses, this text shows us the unconditional grace and love of Jesus for sinners, the joy of receiving Jesus, and the sanctified life that springs from the joy of receiving Jesus.

The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost. He came to seek and save Zacchaeus. He sought you out. Somewhere along the line, someone spoke the name of Jesus to you and told you about his love for you. Maybe it was a Pastor. Maybe it was a parent or good friend. Maybe it was a book that you read. But somewhere along the way, someone made the wise decision to speak the name of the Savior to you, and your life has never been the same since. And so I want to challenge you during this Thanksgiving holiday to reach out to one person who God worked through to bring you to faith in Jesus and say a simply “thank you.” Your kind words will go a long way in that person’s Thanksgiving celebration.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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The Service of the Word

The Prelude

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

Opening Hymn: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come 892

The Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: This evening, as we come together to return thanks to God for another year of his grace in our lives, let us first confess our sins. We have received much, but we have come up short in our stewardship of the good things given to us by our Father in heaven. Therefore, let us ask God to be merciful to us, forgive our sins, and lead us in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

People: **O most merciful God, you have given us everything we have by your grace. You have given us unique gifts and talents. You have given us the privilege of speaking your name and enjoying your presence. You have clothed us in Christ and promised us a resurrection like his. We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. And yet, we have used these and many other gifts in self-serving pursuits. We have been poor stewards of the many good things you have given to us. Therefore, we ask that you would forgive our sins. Lead us to greater faith and obedience. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

The Absolution (spoken by the Pastor)

People: Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Service of the Word

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

People: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**

The Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to thee, O Christ!**

(Please be seated)

The Sermon Hymn: Praise and Thanksgiving

789

Sermon

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 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!

The Collection of the Offering

Benediction

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen!**

The Recessional: Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings 782

† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Music Director	Mark Killinger
The Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
The Elders:	John Gielarowski and James Neill
The Acolyte:	TBD
The Greeters:	TBD
The Ushers:	TBD
Altar Guild:	Kathleen Conn and Mary Hutula

