

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20, 2026
Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Call to Worship “Power in the Blood, When the Roll is Called Up Yonder” - Blue Collar Holler

Welcome Visitors - Please fill out the Visitor Card and put it in the giving box in the Narthex

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

Opening Prayer

Bell

Confession and Forgiveness (From Psalm 51 & Romans 7)

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

Congregation: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do I keep on doing. (Silence for reflection and confession)

P: Cleanse me and I will be clean;

C: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen

Gathering Hymn “All Hail King Jesus” - CCLI # 12877

All hail King Jesus
All hail Emmanuel
King of Kings
Lord of Lords
Bright Morning Star
And throughout eternity
I'll sing Your praises
And I'll reign with You throughout eternity

Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

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

Opening Hymn: “In My Heart There Rings a Melody” - CCLI # 12080

V1 *I have a song that Jesus gave me;
it was sent from heav'n above.
There never was a sweeter melody;
'tis a melody of love.*

V2 *I love the Christ who died on Calv'ry,
for He washed my sins away.
He put within my heart a melody,
and I know it's there to stay.*

V3 *'Twill be my endless theme in glory;
with the angels I will sing.
'Twill be a song with glorious harmony
when the courts of heaven ring.*

Refrain *In my heart there rings a melody;
there rings a melody with heaven's harmony.
In my heart there rings a melody;
there rings a melody of love*

Old Testament Readings: Exodus 20:8, Numbers 28:9-10, Hosea 6:6 (NIV)

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

On the Sabbath day, make an offering of two lambs...together with its drink offering and a grain offering... This is the...offering for every Sabbath, in addition to the regular...offering...

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Epistle Reading: Romans 14:5-6 (NIV)

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 12:1-8 (NIV)

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

P: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message: “**Lord of the Sabbath**” - Pastor Al Alexander

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

Communion

Please come forward during the communion hymn and take a cup of wine or grape juice and a wafer back to your seats. If you are joining us at home, please use your own bread or crackers and wine or juice. We believe the Lord's Supper is a "means of grace" offered freely to all who seek Him. Please join us.

Words of Institution & Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Holy and merciful God, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life.

C: Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving and to conform our lives to his, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever,

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: "He is Lord" - CCLI # 2293738

*He is Lord. He is Lord.
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.*

*He is King. He is King.
He will draw all nations to Him. He is King.
And the time shall be when the world will sing
That Jesus Christ is King.*

Announcements

- September Mission: Hope Academy - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
 - Monday's 6:00-7:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
 - This Week: Galatians 6
- Jeremy and Plami Chase Baptism - Today, 9/20/26, 11:30 am, AmericInn, next to the church.
 - Light lunch following
- Zoar Annual Meeting - Next week, 9/27/26 after church, brunch served
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Thanks to all who are praying for our young people
- Pick up a copy of Our Daily Bread devotional in the Narthex
- To get on the prayer chain - email or call Pastor Al or the church.
- Prayer Requests - Form in seat back; box in Narthex or email Pastor Al
- Sign up for after church treats - sheet in Narthex
- Puzzle exchange - downstairs in the fellowship hall. Lots of puzzles!
- Billy Peterson book - See Pastor Al
- Giving: Box in Narthex, online through our webpage or send a check to the church.

Sending Hymn: “Down to the River” - CCLI # 7052743

Refrain As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
good Lord, show me the way.

V1 O sisters, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
Come on, sisters, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

V2 O brothers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
Come on, brothers, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

V3 O fathers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
Come on, fathers, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

V4 O mothers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
Come on, mothers, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

V5 O sinners, let's go down.
let's go down, come on down,
Come on, sinners, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

Benediction Jude 1:24-25 (NIV)

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen

Bell

Sending

Pastor Al: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia. Amen

Website: www.zoarchurch.org • Email: zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com • Church Phone: 218-663-7925
Al Alexander, Pastor • Music provided this morning by Linda Alexander

***Offerings can be dropped in the labeled box in the narthex
or by clicking the link “Give” on the zoarchurch.org homepage.***