

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 27, 2026
Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Welcome

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 *From Psalm 51 and 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 prayer and reflection)

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

Song “10,000 Reasons” - CCLI # 6016351

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

V1 *The sun comes up it's a new day dawning*

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes.

V2 *You're rich in love and You're slow to anger*

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

V3 *And on that day when my strength is failing*

The end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Consecration of Alihana Kehlani Chambers

Song “Goodness of God” - CCLI # 7117726

V1 I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

V2 I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Bridge
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

Song “Firm Foundation” - CCLI # 7188203

V1 Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

V2 I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
So I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season
So why would He fail now

Chorus 1
He won't He won't

Chorus 2
He won't He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

Bridge Rain came and wind blew
My house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through

Tag Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause I'm standing strong on You
Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause my house is built on You

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

Old Testament Readings: Deuteronomy 22:4, Exodus 23:4-5 (NIV)

If you see your fellow Israelite's donkey or ox fallen on the road, do not ignore it. Help the owner get it to its feet.

If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to return it. If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help them with it.

Epistle Readings: Colossians 2:16-17, Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV)

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Gospel Reading: Matthew 12:9-14 (NIV)

Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

P: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message: "A Sabbath Healing" - 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

Song: "As For Me and My Home" - CCLI # 7260199

V1

*Of all the things I've prayed
What matters most to me
Is that those I love will love the Lord
That every branch and leaf
Upon this family tree
Will find You of their own accord*

V2

*My kids are Yours to claim
They're Your kids anyway
But I'll train them up as they should go
Lord help them find their way
To not live on borrowed faith
That one day this song would be their own*

Chorus

*As for me and my home
We will serve the Lord
As for me and my home
We believe in God
While on this side of the dirt
There's just one name we put first
Jesus alone
As for me and my home (Repeat)*

Bridge

*Oh I just can't wait to see the day
A line of saints with my last name
The legacy the prize of faith
To greet my kids at heaven's gates
There'll be mothers daughters fathers sons
A bloodline covered by Your blood
And just like we did on earth below
We'll sing forevermore*

Announcements

- September Mission: Hope Academy - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
 - Tomorrow 6:00-7:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
 - This Week: Complete Galatians
 - No class next two weeks (10/5 and 10/12). Resume Mon., 10/19 with Linda Leading Ephesians
- Zoar Annual Meeting – Today, 9/27/26 after church, brunch served
- Fall programs start in a few weeks:
 - Men's Breakfast, Led by Pastor Al, Saturdays at 8 am, starting 10/17
 - Bible Club at Birch Grove, Led by Richard and Roxana, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:30 starting 10/28
 - Soup Suppers, Wednesdays, 5:15-6:00 starting 10/28
 - Confirmation Classes, Led by Pastor Al and Linda, after Soup Suppers starting 10/28
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Please see Pastor Al if you would like to become a member of Zoar.
- 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

Doxology of Jude

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. (Jude 1:24-25)

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 Dave Gustafson

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