

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 4, 2026*  
*Zoar Church, Tofte, MN*

**Call to Worship** - A Selection from Joyce Krueger's CD

**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** "Great is Thy Faithfulness" - CCLI # 18723

**V1**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

**V2**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

**V3**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness,  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Lord unto me.

**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: “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” - CCLI # 106879**

**V1** *Wonderful, merciful Savior  
Precious Redeemer and Friend  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could  
Rescue the souls of man,  
Oh You rescue the souls of man.*

**V2** *Counselor, Comforter, Keeper  
Spirit we long to embrace,  
You offered hope when our hearts had  
Hopelessly lost our way,  
Oh we'd hopelessly lost the way.*

**V3** *Almighty, infinite Father  
Faithfully loving Your own.  
Here in our weakness You find us  
Falling before Your throne,  
Oh we're falling before Your Throne.*

**Chorus** *You are the One that we praise  
You are the One we adore  
You give the healing and grace our  
Hearts always hunger for,  
Oh our hearts always hunger for.*

**Old Testament Readings:** Isaiah 11:10, Psalm 31:13 (NIV)

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

For I hear many whispering,  
“Terror on every side!”  
They conspire against me  
and plot to take my life.

**New Testament Reading:** Philippians 2:7-8, Ephesians 3:6 (NIV)

rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 12:14-21 (NIV)

But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.  
Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:  
“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope.”

*P: The Word of God for the people of God*

***C: Thanks be to God***

**Message: “God’s Chosen Servant” - 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.*

**Communion Hymn: “Behold the Lamb” - CCLI # 5003372**

**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: "Cry Out to Jesus" - CCLI # 4586106**

**V1** *To everyone who's lost someone they love  
Long before it was their time  
You feel like the days you had were not enough  
When you said goodbye  
And to all of the people with burdens and pains  
Keeping you back from your life  
You believe that there's nothing and there is no one  
Who can make it right*

**V2** *For the marriage that's struggling  
just to hang on  
They've lost all of their faith in love  
And they've done all they can to make it right again  
Still it's not enough  
For the ones who can't break  
the addictions and chains  
You try to give up but you come back again  
Just remember that you're not alone in your shame  
And your sufferin'*

**Bridge** *When you're lonely  
And it feels like the whole world is falling on you  
You just reach out, you just cry out to Jesus  
Cry to Jesus*

**V3** *To the widow who suffers from being alone  
Wiping the tears from her eyes  
For the children around the world without a home  
Say a prayer tonight*

**Chorus**  
*There is hope for the helpless  
Rest for the weary  
And love for the broken heart  
There is grace and forgiveness  
Mercy and healing  
He'll meet you wherever you are  
Cry out to Jesus, cry out to Jesus*

**Outro**  
*Cry out to Jesus, cry out to Jesus  
Oh, cry out to Jesus, cry out to Jesus*

**Announcements**

- October Mission: Operation Family Christmas - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
  - On break for two weeks
  - Resume Mon., 10/19 at 3 pm, with Linda Leading Ephesians
- Fall programs start in a Couple of weeks:
  - Men's Breakfast, Led by Pastor Al, Saturdays at 8 am, starting 10/17
  - Heritage Dinner, 10/21 6-8 pm – See poster in Narthex
  - 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

**Sending Hymn: “My Tribute/To God Be the Glory” - CCLI # 11218**

How can I say thanks  
For the things You have done for me?  
Things so undeserved  
Yet You gave to prove Your love for me;  
The voices of a million angels  
Could not express my gratitude  
All that I am and ever hope to be  
I owe it all to Thee

**Chorus 1**

To God be the glory  
To God be the glory  
To God be the glory  
For the things He has done

**Chorus 2**

With His blood He has saved me  
With His power He has raised me;  
To God be the glory  
For the things He has done

**Bridge**

Just let me live my life  
Let it pleasing, Lord to Thee  
And if I gain any praise  
Let it go to Calvary

**Benediction** Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace

**Bell**

**Sending**

*Pastor Al: Go in peace and serve the Lord.*

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

**Website: [www.zoarchurch.org](http://www.zoarchurch.org) • Email: [zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://zoarchurch.org) homepage.***