Christ the King, November 22, 2026

Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Call to Worship *Selections from Joyce Krueger*

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 **"Now Thank We All Our God"** *- CCLI # 7096779*

V1 *Now thank we all our God*
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

V2 *O may this bounteous God*
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

V3 *All praise and thanks to God*
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

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*: "Come Thou Almighty King"** - *CCLI # 7236781*

V1 *Come, Thou Almighty King,*
help us Thy name to sing;
help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

V2 *Come, Thou Incarnate Word,*
gird on Thy mighty sword,
our pray'r attend:
come, and Thy people bless,
and give Thy Word success:
Spirit of holiness,
on us descend.

V3 *Come, Holy Comforter,*
Thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

V4 *To Thee, great One in Three,*
eternal praises be
hence, evermore.
His sov'reign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore!

Old Testament Readings: Psalm 78:2, Jeremiah 5:21 (NIV)

I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old

Hear this, you foolish and senseless people,
who have eyes but do not see,
who have ears but do not hear:

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:7-10 (NIV)

No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written:

"What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived"—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—
these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:10-17 (NIV)

The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”
He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables:
Though seeing, they do not see;
 though hearing, they do not hear or understand.
In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
 you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.
For this people’s heart has become calloused;
 they hardly hear with their ears,
 and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
 hear with their ears,
 understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.
But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

P: The Word of God for the people of God ***C: Thanks be to God***

Message: ***“Why Parables?”*** *- 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

Closing Hymn: ***"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"*** - CCLI # 6428767

V1 *You call me out upon the waters*
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep My faith will stand

V2 *Your grace abounds in deepest waters*
Your sovereign hand Will be my guide
Where feet may fail And fear surrounds me
You've never failed And You won't start now

Bridge
Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour (repeat)

Oh, Jesus, You're my God!

Chorus 1 *And I will call upon Your name*
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine

Chorus 2 *I will call upon Your name*
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine

Announcements

- November Mission: Samaritan's Purse - See poster in Narthex
- North Shore Living in Grand Marais - Worship today at 2:00
- Community Bible Study, Mondays 3:00-4:00, Ephesians
    - Led by Linda, at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
    - Zoom only this week
- Confirmation Classes, Led by Pastor Al and Linda, after Soup Suppers
    - No class this week (Thanksgiving), Next class 12/2
- No Bible Club, Soup Supper or Confirmation Class this Wednesday (Thanksgiving)
- Next Men's Breakfast – Saturday 12/5/26, 8:00-9:00
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- See Pastor Al if you would like to become a member of Zoar
- Need one more to pray a young person
    - Thank you to those who are praying
- Pick up a copy of Our Daily Bread devotional in the Narthex
- To get on the prayer chain - email or call Pastor Al.
- 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.
- Please invite and like us on Facebook

Sending Hymn: ***"King of My Heart"*** *- CCLI # 7046145*

V1 Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from
Oh, He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life
Oh, He is my song

V2 Let the King of my heart
Be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves
Oh, He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days
Oh, He is my song

Chorus
'Cause You are good, You're good, oh-oh
You are good, You're good, oh-oh

Bridge You're never gonna let,
You're never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let,
You're never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let,
You're never gonna let me down

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.