Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 8, 2026

Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Call to Worship ***"Clap Your Hands and Praise the Lord"*** *- The Worship We Lost*

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 **"Come Ye Thankful People Come"** *- CCLI # 50200*

V1 *Come, ye thankful people, come,*
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

V2 *All the world is God's own field,*
Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

V3 *For the Lord our God shall come,*
And shall take His harvest home;
From His field shall in that day
All offenses purge away;
Give His angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store
In His garner evermore.

V4 *Even so, Lord, quickly come,*
Bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified,
In Thy garner to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come,
Raise the glorious harvest home.

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: **"Take My Life and Let It Be"** - *CCLI # 1390*

V1 *Take my life and let it be*
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

V2 *Take my hands and let them move*
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

V3 *Take my voice and let me sing*
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

V4 *Take my silver and my gold;*
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

V5 *Take my will and make it thine;*
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

V6 *Take my love; my Lord, I pour*
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

Old Testament Readings: Hosea 10:12, Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)

Sow righteousness for yourselves,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unplowed ground;
for it is time to seek the Lord,
until he comes
and showers his righteousness on you.

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

New Testament Readings: 2 Corinthians 4:4, Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)
The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9 (NIV)
That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying:
"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

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

Message: ***"The Sower"*** **-** *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: ***"Spirit of the Living God"*** - CCLI # 191468

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me. (3X)

Announcements

- November Mission: Samaritan's Purse - See poster in Narthex
- Fall programs
    - Community Bible Study, Mondays 3:00-4:00, Ephesians
        - Led by Linda, at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
    - Bible Club at Birch Grove, Led by Richard and Roxana, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:30
    - Soup Suppers, Wednesdays, 5:15-6:00
    - Confirmation Classes, Led by Pastor Al and Linda, after Soup Suppers starting 11/18
- Annual Fishcake and Swedish Meatball Dinner - Saturday, 11/14/26, 5:00-7:00.
    - Please spread the word and invite
- 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
- 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.
- 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: ***"Make Me a Blessing"*** *- CCLI # 11603*

V1 Out in the highways and byways of life,
Many are weary and sad;
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,
Making the sorrowing glad.

RefrainMake me a blessing, Make me a blessing.
Out of my life may Jesus shine;
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray.
Make me a blessing to someone today.

V2 Tell the sweet story of Christ and his love,
Tell of his pow'r to forgive;
Others will trust him if only you prove
True, ev'ry moment you live.

V3 Give as 'twas given to you in your need,
Love as the Master loved you;
Be to the helpless a helper indeed,
Unto your mission be true.

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 • 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.