



ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH


“AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus,
a Grateful Zoar Gathers, Grows and Gives”

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Celebration of Confirmation and Graduation

Sunday, May 18th @ 10 am

Pastor Melanie Forrey and Pastor Paul Reichert

A photograph of several hands of different skin tones reaching up to form a heart shape against a light blue sky.

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

Beloved, welcome to Zoar!

We are glad you are here. Whether you are new, attend worship regularly, are just passing through, or haven't been here in years, you belong - you are wanted - you are loved, just as you are. You and all people are wonderfully made by God, created in goodness for goodness, and are a part of one vibrant Divine tapestry with all of creation.

At Zoar Lutheran Church, all are welcome, and all means all. We celebrate diversity and embrace people of all ethnicities, cultures, and colors, all gender identities and expressions, all sexual orientations, all abilities, all ages, and folks from all walks of life. We desire wellness, wholeness, and hopefulness for all people, and will not turn away from anyone in their time of need, whatever that looks like.

We are committed to advocating for justice, seeking equity, encouraging curiosity, and caring for the most vulnerable. We condemn racism, discrimination, and other forces, words, and actions that oppress, exclude, and harm. While we know that we still have a lot to learn, we endeavor to be accountable when we make mistakes. We will continue to grow in ways that help us take better care of each other and the planet.

With our whole hearts, we strive to share the abundant love of God, practice the unexpected and generous hospitality of Jesus, and be moved by the Holy Spirit toward meaningful change and a stronger relationship with our Creator, our neighbors, and all the earth.

No matter where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here at Zoar!



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www.zoarlutheran.com

*Indicates an invitation to rise as you are able

Welcome and Prayer

***Gathering Hymn:**

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds
Vs. 1, 3 and 4

ELW #367

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: In the name of ☩ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.

People: Amen.

Leader: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Leader: Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

People: make us one as you are one.

Leader: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

People: make us one as you are one.

Leader: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

People: make us one as you are one.

Leader: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

People: Amen.

Apostolic Greeting

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Congregation may be seated.

Recognition of Graduates

Dylan Blubaugh	<i>Perrysburg High School</i>
Lydia Clark	<i>Toledo School for the Arts</i>
Lauren Cline	<i>Perrysburg High School</i>
Katherine Cromly	<i>Perrysburg High School</i>
Lily Lynn Drummond	<i>Perrysburg High School</i>
Isaac Lee Klapper	<i>Perrysburg High School</i>
Dylan Franklin Moll	<i>Sylvania Southview High School</i>
Raina Sarah Springer	<i>Perrysburg High School</i>

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to

Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Read responsively.

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R**

⁷ Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God’s will;**

⁹ mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹² **young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. R**

¹³ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah! R**

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35

Leader: The Gospel according to....

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

After the conclusion of the Gospel:

Leader: The Gospel of Our Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Pastor Melanie Forrey

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

I present Carli, Caitlyn, Carolyn, Riley, Drew, Grant, Jin, Laura, Aiden, Alex, and Julia who *desire* to make public affirmation of *their* baptism..

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for *these sisters and brothers*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called *them* to yourself,
enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished *them* in the community of faith.

Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Affirmation

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word
and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and continue praying for *them* in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Laying on of Hands – families come forward when their child's name is called and return to their seats after their child is blessed.

Confirmands turn to face the congregation.

Carli Cline

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through God who strengthens me.*

Caitlyn Ellis

1 Timothy 4:12 *Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

Carolyn Ellis

Joshua 1:9 *I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

Riley Myers Flores

Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths.*

Drew Geffe

Matthew 6:43 *So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.*

Grant Charles Kocis

Proverbs 18:24 *Some friends play at friendship, but a true friend sticks closer than one's sibling.*

Jin Charles Winder Lazor

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through God who strengthens me.*

Laura Lenz

Psalms 16:11 *You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Aiden Miller

Psalms 46:1 *God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.*

Alex Nathan Moll

Psalms 119:105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Julia Motzel

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Confirmation Creed (written by 2024 confirmation class)

I believe in God, our protector and trusted heavenly parent, who created everyone and everything.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the forgiver of all sins, the anointed one.

Who was born and raised a human while still fully divine.

Who suffered and died for us.

Who conquered death and returned to heaven as God.

Who will come again to make us whole.

I believe in the holy spirit, the dove that gathers us together, connects us with all people, bestows limitless mercy, makes us whole beyond death, to infinity and beyond. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Leader: Hear us, O God,

People: Your mercy is great.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

Please greet one another with words of peace.

Congregation may be seated.

Announcements

Offering 10 am choir anthem: “*Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*” arr. Zebulon Highben, Julie Buzzelli, Harp

*Tithes and offerings are collected at this time.
Please sign and pass the pew pads during the offering and
indicate whether you are receiving communion today.*

Offering Prayer

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

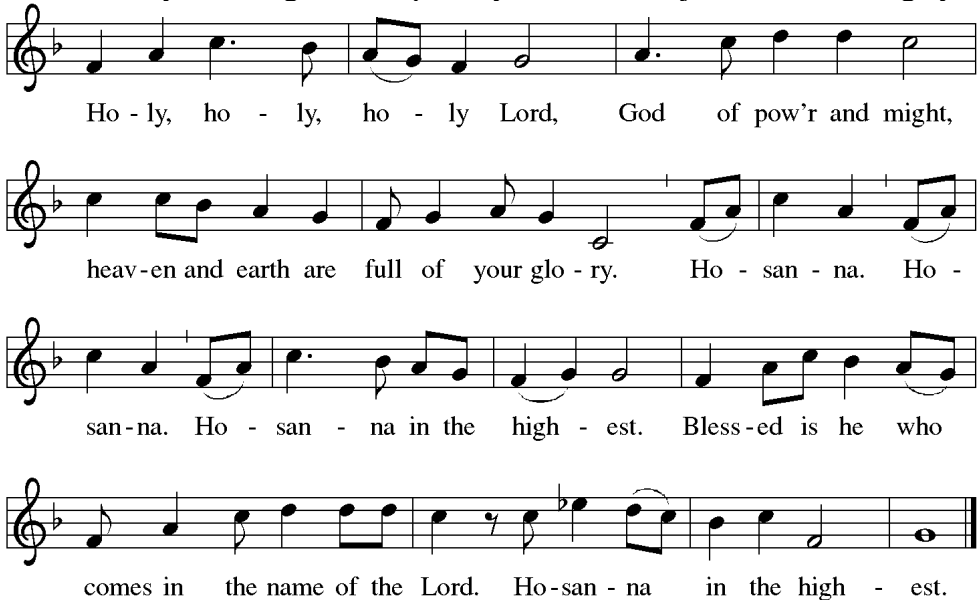
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: It is our duty and delight.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

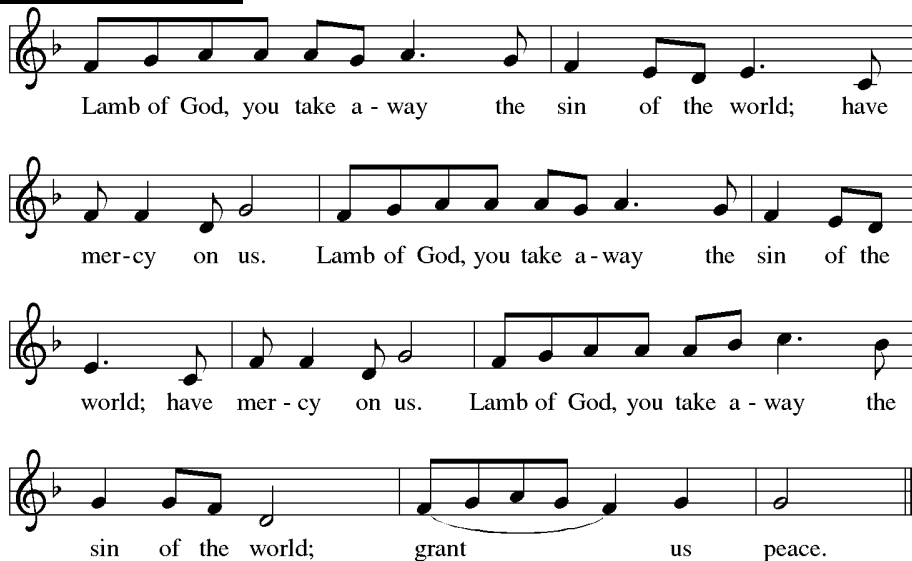
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Congregation may be seated.

Sharing of Communion

Please follow the guidance of the ushers, who will direct worshippers beginning with the back rows. Communion today will be served via intinction. As you come forward, you will receive a wafer (a gluten free option is available), then you will be invited to dip your wafer into the chalice (one side will contain red wine, the other light colored grape-juice). All who believe in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to share communion. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to the table. People of any age who are not receiving Communion are always offered a blessing when coming forward during this part of the worship service. All are welcome, for Jesus invites us.

Music During Communion



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

10 am choir anthem: *"The Lord's My Shepherd"*

"I Giorni" by Ludovico Einaudi

***Post Communion Blessing**

Prayer after Communion

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

Blessing

Leader: The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign ✝ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

People: Amen.

Sending Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW #632

Dismissal

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Reception