

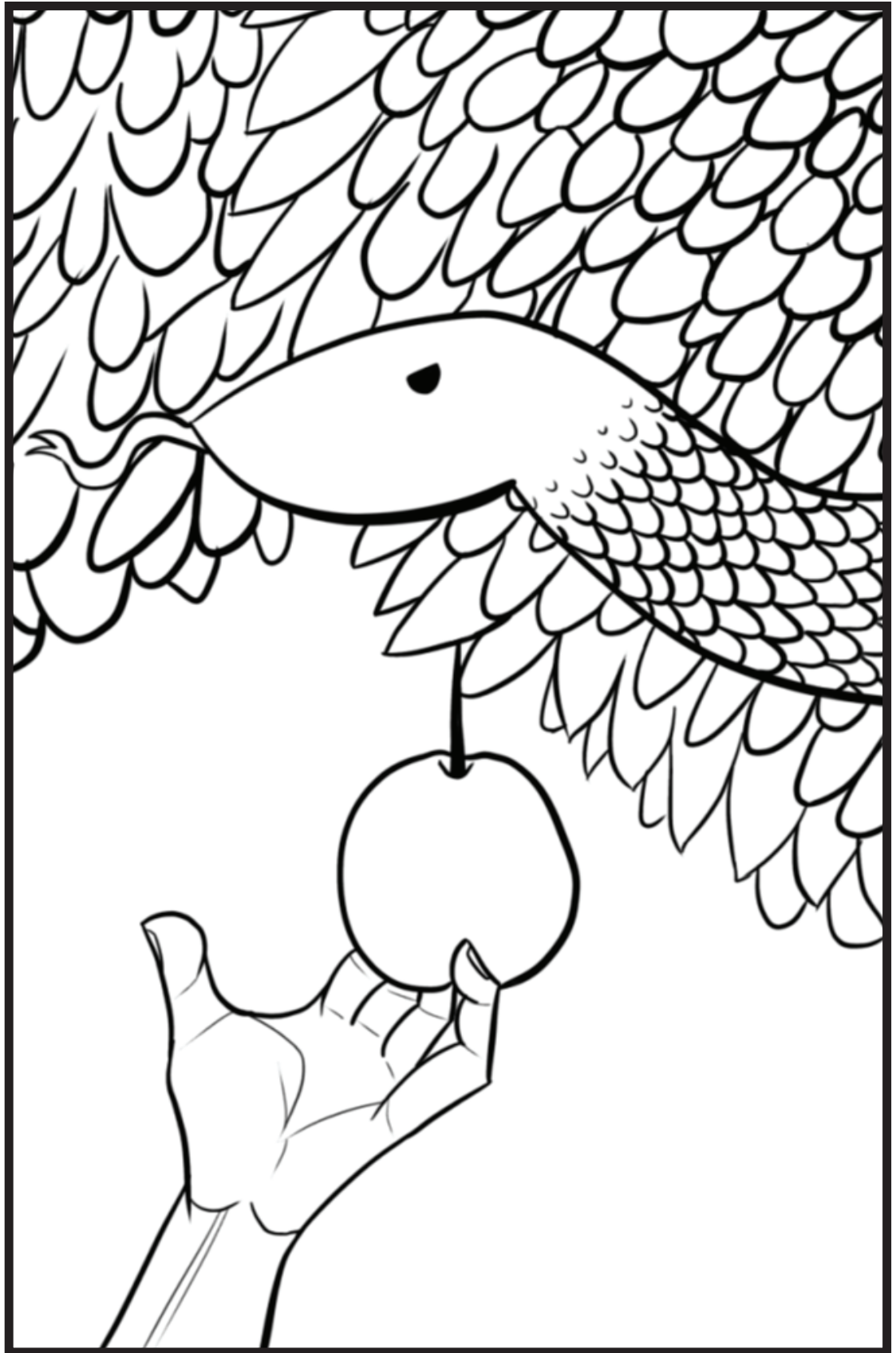


ZION
LUTHERAN † ANOKA

A
WELCOMING
FAITH
COMMUNITY.
GROWING.
CARING.
SERVING.



JUNE
13/14
2026



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Villains of the Bible

The Serpent

Welcome to Worship

If you are a visitor please stop at the Welcome Desk in the lower level for a visitor bag.
For more information contact us at www.zionanoka.org.

PREACHING:
Pastor Sue Wallager

ASSISTING:
SUN Pr Connie Tiede

ORGANIST:
SAT KT Thompson
SUN Shari Albrecht

We experience the devastating power of evil in so many ways – yet in the face of a myriad of streams of news and commentary, it can be hard to point directly at a villain without shutting others' ears. By exploring villains in the Bible, we can create a kind of pattern recognition for discerning evil in the world. In learning this skill, we can then reflect on how God and/or God's people respond to the abuses of power with transformative love and liberation.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of Goodness and Mercy,

We confess that we have let evil confuse and discourage us. We have looked away when the powerful destroy and abuse, seeking our own “peace” at the expense of others’ lives. We have caused harm and been too ashamed to face our failure and make it right. We have gotten carried away by the crowd to condemn those you love. We have let fear and jealousy guide our actions. We’re sorry. Help us repair the harm we have caused, both willingly and unintentionally. Surround those we have harmed with comfort and support. Turn our hearts and our actions back to you and guide us once again in your ways of love and justice. Amen.

Our God is Love. And in God’s infinite love, God has compassion for our mistakes and failures. God’s goodness always perseveres through our evil. God chooses liberation and new life. And God forgives you, † abundantly, for all your sins and calls you to follow the way of love. **Amen.**

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
 Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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GREETING:

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Fount of Knowledge,

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

WORD FOR KIDS (9 AM)

ACCLAMATION: Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom, vs 1

ACS971

1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: MADELEINE, Donna Kasbohm, b. 1933
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READING: Genesis 3:1-7

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON: by Pastor Sue Wallager



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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THE MAASAI CREED

We believe in the one High God of love who created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created humans and wanted humans to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe in the world. We have known this God in darkness, and we now know God in the light. God promised in his book the Bible that he would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

We believe that God made good on his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man by the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari, doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is Lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry about their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live by the rules of love and share the bread together, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

After each petition

God of mercy and grace...

Hear our Prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE:

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Share the peace with a wave and word of peace.)

MEAL

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC - Duet (8 & 9 AM):

"Poor Wayfarin' Stranger" arr. Althouse

Sophie Bauer and Jonathan Campbell vocals; Shari Albrecht, piano

MANY WAYS TO GIVE

TEXT: 763-710-2209

ONLINE www.zionanoka.org
click on "GIVE TODAY"

ELECTRONIC GIVING
<https://cutt.ly/ziongivetoday>

or



**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."**

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

DISTRIBUTION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

- *The ushers will invite you forward. Please take a cup from them and proceed to a communion station.*
- *The first server will give you a wafer. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please let them know.*
- *The second server will pour wine into your cup. If you prefer white grape juice, go to the third server.*
- *After receiving communion, place your empty cup in the baskets provided as you return to your seat.*

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP

Hearing Assistance Units Available

Hearing assistance units are available at the sound booth at the back of the Sanctuary.

Mobility Concerns

We have areas in the sanctuary where a wheelchair or walker will fit. Ushers can assist you.

Children Welcome

Activity bags are available outside the sanctuary. We have two "pray grounds" in the sanctuary with plenty of places just outside the sanctuary as well where children can sit and play.

LIVE STREAM

SUNDAY 9 & 11 AM

www.zionanoka.org

(click "Worship Online")

- or -

[www.facebook.com/
ZionLutheranChurch
AnokaMn](https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurchAnokaMn)

AVAILABLE ANYTIME

CABLE TV

Metro Cable Network
Channel 6

SUNDAY | 5 PM

RADIO BROADCAST

106.1 BOB FM

SUNDAYS | 9 AM

OFFICE HOURS

M - TH: 9 AM - 5 PM

FRI: 9 AM - 12 NOON



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POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER:

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION:

God the Creator carry you through all evil, the Teacher guide your wisdom and discernment and the Advocate defend you in justice. The Holy Three-In-One † bless you now and always. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

860



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE