



ZION
LUTHERAN † ANOKA

A
WELCOMING
FAITH
COMMUNITY.
GROWING.
CARING.
SERVING.



JULY
11/12
2026



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Villains of the Bible

The Crown

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

PRESIDING:

8 AM Pr Connie Tiede

9 AM Pr Mike Pancoast

ORGANIST:

Mary Jo Gothmann

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.**

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931

Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949

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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:

Ruler of Heaven and Earth,

Those who rule with violence always fear the power of those they oppress. Embolden us to resist the allure of solitary power and help us frustrate the ways of the wicked. Protect all children, especially those who know the violence of war and genocide first hand. Make us brave enough to help others to safety and warn them against danger. Amen.

WORD

WORD FOR KIDS (9 AM)

ACCLAMATION:



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

READING: Matthew 2:1-18, 14:6-11

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON: by Pastor Sue Wallager

HYMN OF THE DAY: Why, Herod, Unrelenting Foe (*sung to Old 100*)
Hymn by Martin Luther, adapt. Jonathan Campbell

- 1. Why, Herod, unrelenting foe,
Does Christ the Lord's birth move you so?
He does no earthly kingdom crave,
Who unto us heav'n's kingdom gave.**
- 2. The star before the wise men goes,
This light to them the true light shows.
They, by the three gifts which they bring,
Declare this child: God, man, and king.**
- 3. All honor unto Christ be paid,
Pure offspring of a holy maid,
With Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Till time in endless love be lost.**

MISSION TRIP COMMISSIONING

BLESSING:

Gracious God, we thank you for these members of our youth mission team. Watch over them, keep them safe, and fill them with your Spirit. Bless their work, bless those they will serve, and bring them home renewed in faith and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CREED FROM THE IONA COMMUNITY:

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. 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 - PIANO DUET:

"Shepherd Me, O God" arr. Mark Hayes

LeaAnn Barnett and Mary Jo Gothmann, piano

OFFERTORY: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, verse 1

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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.

MANY WAYS TO GIVE

TEXT: 763-710-2209

ONLINE www.zionanoka.org

click on "GIVE TODAY"

ELECTRONIC GIVING

<https://cutt.ly/ziongivetoday>

or



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 *(Note: while our pouring chalices are out for restoration and repair we will be serving grape juice only (no wine) out of glass pitchers.)*

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 grape juice into your cup.*
- *After receiving communion, place your empty cup in the baskets provided as you return to your seat.*



1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,

Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
 so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
 that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
 whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:

The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
 We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
 come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,

to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
 and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
 that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
 whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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1 O God, why are you si - lent? I can - not hear your voice;
 2 My hope lies bruised and bat - tered, my wound - ed heart is torn;
 3 Through end - less nights of weep - ing, through wea - ry days of grief,
 4 May pain draw forth com - pas - sion, let wis - dom rise from loss;



the proud and strong and vio - lent all claim you and re - joice;
 my spir - it spent and shat - tered by life's re - lent - less storm;
 my heart is in your keep - ing, my com - fort, my re - lief.
 oh, take my heart and fash - ion the im - age of your cross;



you prom - ised you would hold me with ten - der - ness and care.
 will you not bend to hear me, my cries from deep with - in?
 Come, share my tears and sad - ness, come, suf - fer in my pain,
 then may I know your heal - ing through heal - ing that I share,



Draw near, O Love, en - fold me, and ease the pain I bear.
 Have you no word to cheer me when night is clos - ing in?
 oh, bring me home to glad - ness, re - store my hope a - gain.
 your grace and love re - veal - ing, your ten - der - ness and care.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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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.**

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 wheel-
chair or walker will fit.
Ushers can assist you.*

Children Welcome

*Activity bags are avail-
able outside the sanctu-
ary. 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

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Channel 6

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106.1 BOB FM

SUNDAYS | 9 AM

OFFICE HOURS

M - TH: 9 AM - 5 PM

FRI: 9 AM - 12 NOON



1601 4th Avenue
Anoka MN 55303
763.421.4656

www.zionanoka.org

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: Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing, vs. 1, 4 & 5 389

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789
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DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE