

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
330 GRISWOLD STREET, ELGIN, IL 60123

May 2, 2021

"Listening to God When Big Choices Happen"

"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"

PRELUDE

GARY HILLQUIST

**QUESTION FOR THE WEEK:** Have you ever made a big decision that you regretted and wished that you had prayed about it first?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: 513 "Listen, God Is Calling" (all verses)

*Refrain:*

*Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

*1. Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news  
that he came to save us and set us free.*

*2. Let none be forgotten throughout the world.  
In the triune name of God go and baptize.*

*3. Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast,  
walking in your precepts, led by your Word.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God of wisdom and truth, we gather today asking for your Spirit to move in ways that we can not only sense, but in ways that will also bring us new life. Grant us wisdom and courage to engage in bold actions that are grounded in discernment of your will. As we worship today, fill us with all that we need to be sent forth as Christ's agents in the world, for it is in the name of Jesus Christ that we pray.

C Amen

WORD

*(We turn our attention to hearing God's Word)*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

DEACON MARLENE

VERSE OF THE MONTH

L Let us remember together the witness of scripture.

C "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

FIRST LESSON: Acts 15:1-18

L Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL VERSE: 172 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

*Halle, halle, hallelujah.*

*Halle, halle, hallelujah.*

*Halle, halle, hallelujah.*

*Hallelujah. Hallelujah.*

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:29-32**

**P** The Gospel according to Luke 2:29-32

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(After the lesson)*

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: 705 “God of Grace and God of Glory” (verses 1, 2, and 4)**

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r,  
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

**APOSTLES CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord.  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and 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.  
He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen**

## OFFERING

*We join Christians all over the world in worshipping God through our giving of financial resources.*

*During this unusual time, you may give by going to [www.ZionElginIL.org/give](http://www.ZionElginIL.org/give) and following the directions there. Options include our online giving portal, PayPal, GivePlus phone app, and mailing in a check to the church. Thanks for your faithful partnership during this unusual time.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

**C God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and forever. Amen**

**BENEDICTION (sung by Choir and Praise Team)**

**POSTLUDE**

**GARY HILLQUIST**