



Take My yoke upon you,
and learn from Me, for I am
gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your
souls. For My yoke is easy,
and My burden is light.
Matthew 11:29–30

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A Member of
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2026 THEME FOR BEREA & ZION

LIVING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of His work in our lives, shown by how we serve Christ by serving others. Because of the salvation Jesus bought for us, we are now free. But what **SHOULD** we do? Paul says he (and we) are "slaves" ("servants") to Christ.

By being servants and in gratitude to Jesus for His saving work, we are empowered by the Spirit working in and through us to do what He wants. We praise Him with lives well lived, and bring the message of salvation to everyone around us, bringing Him glory by our actions.

Throughout the year, we will explore the meaning of all nine fruit. Watch for these explorations on the announcement page. We hope you will revisit your understanding of God's gifts, seeing where the Holy Spirit's fruit shine through. You are a work in progress, a work of art that God has not yet finished.

BEREA & ZION GUESTS

At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ. Talk to Pastor John today.

Pentecost 6 ~ July 5, 2026

As We Gather

Today our Lord contrasts the wisdom of the world with the hidden wisdom of God—something a child can discern by faith. Because our Lord has accomplished all things for us and our salvation, we rejoice in His easy yoke. We wait upon the Lord, putting our trust neither in flesh and blood nor in princes or earthly powers but in Christ alone. This promise of rest in Christ is given not to the few but to all who come heavy laden with sin, guilt, shame, sorrow, and death. No wonder the little child understands! Thanks be to God.

WELCOME AND SHARING OF PEACE

Opening Hymn

966 Before You, Lord, We Bow

Invocation

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

Confession and Absolution Psalm 103:10

P: He does not deal with us according to our sins,

C: nor repay us according to our iniquities.

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus I ask for Your forgiveness. Deliver me according to Your mercy and grant peace to my heart so that I can serve You with all my mind, body, and soul.

P: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus, and in Him we are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 145:1–14

P: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

C: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

P: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

C: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

P: On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

C: They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

P: They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

C: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

C: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!

P: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,

C: to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

P: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.

C: The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. AMEN

Prayer of the Day

P: *We pray.* Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

First Lesson

Zechariah 9:9–12

(Rejoice! Your King comes to you.)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Epistle Reading

Romans 7:14–25a

(I know that nothing good lives in me apart from Christ.)

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do

it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:25–30

("Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.")

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P: These are the Word of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Profession of Faith

(Tune: Hymn # 802)

*In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.*

*In Jesus, the Saviour, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross he endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin,
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.*

*God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the church now he does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. AMEN*

Hymn of the Day 570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

Sermon

The Offerings Are Gathered

(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)

*We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

*May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!*

Prayers of the Church

P: Gracious Father, it's Your will that we come to You for forgiveness and with all that's on our hearts. We thank You for the forgiveness we have in Jesus and for the assurance we are given that You hear our pleas and answer as You know is right and best. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of the Church, You make Yourself known to people all over the world through the Gospel. The result is that hearts are turning to You and voices are raised in praise. May all who are weary and burdened find their rest in You. Use us as a Church, to proclaim

Jesus to all, especially those who have yet to trust in Him. Bless us at Berea and Zion as we reach out to the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your Word, Lord, commands us to pray for those in authority over us. Bless this land in which we live. Guide our leaders and the leaders of the world. May all who lead, do so diligently, and may all decisions be guided by Your wisdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Healer of both soul and body, we pray for all who are suffering in any way: physically, mentally, relationally, and spiritually. We especially lift up... and all in our hearts. Equip those caring for their needs. May the medications, and equipment, and the places of care bring healing and strength for them. May they especially find their comfort, strength, peace, healing, and rest in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we rejoice with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this week. We thank you for the blessings of the past, and entrust them to your future care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: AMEN

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**

Benediction

P: The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit be with you all.

C: AMEN

Closing Hymn 771 Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord

Announcements and Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

BEREA Organist: Bill Irwin
Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball
Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker
For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

ZION Organist: Joanne Maguire
Altar Guild: K. Hayter / M. Walper
Elders: Ken Rader, Lorne Koch, Tom Hayter,
Randy Bowers, Jeff Miller
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789