

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 (ESV)

56 Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed. "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." ⁸ The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

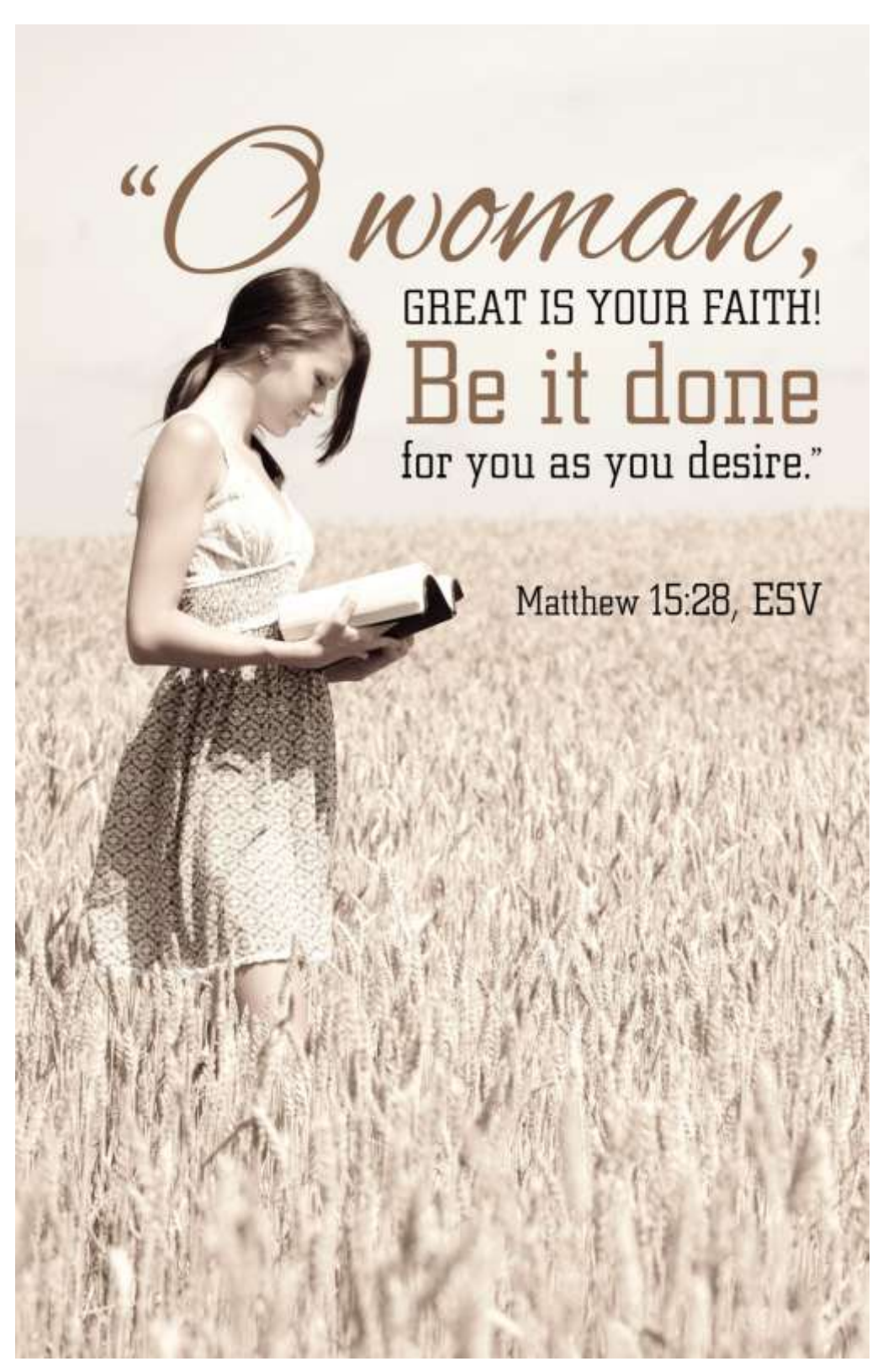
Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32 (ESV)

11 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ¹³ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they

are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Matthew 15:21-28 (ESV)

²¹ And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white sleeveless top and a patterned skirt, stands in a field of tall, golden wheat. She is looking down at an open book she is holding in her hands. The background is a soft-focus field of wheat under a pale sky.

“O woman,
GREAT IS YOUR FAITH!
Be it done
for you as you desire.”

Matthew 15:28, ESV

August 16, 2026
11th Sunday After Pentecost

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909 ~ Pastor Cell 989-964-8722

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

**The Church Lives Under the Cross of Christ
and Prays in the Hope of His Mercy.**

By her persistent prayer that Jesus would have mercy and help her (Matt. 15:22, 24), and even in the face of His initial silence and apparent rejection (Matt. 15:23–26), the Canaanite woman boldly confessed her faith in Him (Matt 15:27–28). Her beautiful example encourages us to cling to the words and promises of the Gospel, even in the face of the Law that accuses and condemns us. “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” (Rom. 11:29), and His Law “has consigned all to disobedience” for the very purpose “that he may have mercy on all” (Rom. 11:32). Hence, the woman’s faith and hope were not disappointed, but her prayers were answered in the mercy of Christ. Not only does He grant us the crumbs from His table, but He also feeds us with “the children’s bread” in the house of His Father (Matt. 15:26–27). He has brought us to His “*holy mountain*,” and He makes us joyful in His house, where He hears our prayers and accepts our sacrifice of praise upon the altar of His cross (Is. 56:7).

ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service Setting One	151
OPENING HYMN “ <i>To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All</i> ”	613
HYMN OF THE DAY “ <i>God Loved the World so that He Gave</i> ”	571
SERMON “ <i>The Faith & Prayer of a Mother</i> ”	Matthew 15:28
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	
“ <i>Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray</i> ”	623
“ <i>Jesus Comes Today with Healing</i> ”	620
CLOSING HYMN “ <i>Abide, O Dearest Jesus</i> ”	919

Pastor	Charles Buckhahn
Vicar	Ron Zuccaro
Organist	Carolyn Laurenz
Elders	Paul Bohn & Dale Rohde
A/V	Mark Richardson
Ushers	Dave Hutfilz and Dave Little
Altar Guild	Mary Lou Garner

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 56 *Needed for The Lord's Work at Zion* \$4,729 ~ *Received for the Lord's Work* \$3,376; Capital Projects \$20; God's Helping Hands \$70.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday:
 August 16- Gerald Laurenz (his 87th), Anna Laurenz; August 17- Kaiden Knapik; August 18- Korbin Knapik, Zackery Leppert; August 21- Darin Rowe.

Please pray for: The family of Frank St. Onge, friend of Larry and Sharon Feusse, who passed away Saturday, August 8. Feel free to contact Vicar Ron at 989-385-7569 if you have a scheduled hospital visit and would like him to visit and pray with you or if you would like to have someone put on the prayer list.

Homecoming ~ Join us on Sunday, September 27 following worship as we celebrate Zion's church family and renew our commitment to serving God. We'll enjoy a cookout with meat provided. Please sign up in the narthex to RSVP, bring a side dish or dessert or to help in planning and serving.

Volunteer Opportunity ~ A volunteer is needed to paint the new front railings and the railing at the old office entry. Supplies are ready for you in the shed! Please see Dave Hutfilz if you are willing to help!

Greeters ~ Help give every worshiper a warm Zion welcome! Greeters will begin serving at each service. Sign up in the narthex if you would like to be a part of this welcoming ministry.