



The Sunday after Christmas

January 1, 2023 + 9:00 a.m.

Zion-Public WiFi password: Zion54484

Congregational responses are in BOLD.

All are welcome to receive Jesus' unconditional gift of God's grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Regardless of your church membership or affiliation, all are encouraged to participate in communion or to come forward for a blessing.

Children of all ages are encouraged to worship with the whole community in Christ. Children's worship bags are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Page numbers that are listed are found in the front of the cranberry-colored hymnal at the bottom of the page. Hymn numbers are listed in bold, large print on the top of the page.

If you would like home communion, a hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or at office@zionstratford.org or Pastor Amy Heinz at 608.498.5772 or pastoramy@zionstratford.org.

Ministers: All the People of God through the love of Jesus and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

Pastor: Rev. Amy Heinz

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Busche

Organists: Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke, Ryan Huther

Custodian: Rod Huther

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

* From Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress,
License #23254, One License #A-715097

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER OF INVOCATION

A new day has begun!

Are you ready to give God praise?

We are ready!

Are you ready to leave behind the baggage?

We are ready!

Are you ready to step out in faith?

We are ready!

Are you ready to forgive?

We are ready!

Even the one who hurt you the most?

We are ready!

Are you ready to release your doubts and fears?

We are ready!

**O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! We are yours
and we are ready! Alleluia! Amen!**

GATHERING HYMN *"Cold December Flies Away"* ELW 299 v. 1-2

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us make a hopeful confession to God.

Brief silence for individual reflection and confession.

**We seek you, God, in the spaces of our lives.
The spaces between what we've done
and what we've left undone.
The spaces between our convictions
and our actions,
the spaces between all that we hoped to do,
and what we've actually done.
We come with humility,
knowing that we can't always see
the ways we've disappointed you,
nor can we always see
the long-term effects of the good we've done.
This is a prayer for the road ahead,
which is an empty space stretching before us.
Fill us with a burning compassion
for those around us,
a love that will not let us go.
Give us the courage to give boldly,
love simply,
hope deeply,
risk greatly.
Our light is small,
our time is short,
but let it shine for you,
always, ever, all for you.
Amen.**

God hears our fervent prayer.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
our sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

May the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

ACS Setting 11

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you blessed Jesus with a rich line of diverse and interesting ancestors. Bless our families; those related by blood and those brought to us by love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Psalm 132:11-12

11 The Lord swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:

“One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.

12 If your sons keep my covenant
and my decrees that I shall teach them,
their sons also, forevermore,
shall sit on your throne.”

READING

Matthew 1:1-17

1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, **4** and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, **5** and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, **6** and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, **7** and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, **8** and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, **9** and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, **10** and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, **11** and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, **13** and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, **14** and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, **15** and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, **16** and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Genealogy of Jesus—So What?* Pastor Amy Heinz

HYMN OF THE DAY *“That Boy-Child of Mary”* ELW 243

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

O Triune God, grant us your gracious, guiding presence as we enter the new year. As we join Christians of every time who have awaited Jesus' return, lead us into this new time, confident that your promises will be fulfilled. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Spirit of Truth, call us to repentance in this new year. Forgive us for past unfaithfulness, silence in the face of injustice, and inaction amid suffering. Move us from the desire to hoard our wealth toward faithful stewardship. Help us to share your gifts with those who cry out for daily bread. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Prince of Peace, healer, and reconciler, heal the divisions in your Church and among the peoples of the world. As you prayed that we should all be one, give us new visions to enable that unity. Be with us on our ecumenical journey, and with those sisters and brothers who surround us in the great cloud of witnesses. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

God of all ages, release us from fear. Lead us forward, even as you have led your Church forward from an empty cross and tomb through millennia. Be our companion as we walk unexplored paths into an unknown future. Open us to new possibilities. Renew our hope. Grant us faith to move ahead. Be our companion until Jesus comes again. In his name, we pray.

Amen.

We Share the Meal

KIDS' GLOBAL OFFERING/OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Faithful God,

We look back on the year behind us and appreciate your presence with us through it. In this new year, grant that we may become more faithful, more committed to your kingdom work, more knowledgeable of your ways, more familiar with your spirit, more yielding to your instruction, and more willing to give of ourselves for others.

Accept our tithes and offerings this day as an act of faith and of worship.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Lamb of God"	ELW p. 154
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"	ELW 276
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"	ELW 272

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

May the God who gave us the past year and the Savior who walked at our side each day and the Spirit who filled us with life abundant, grace this new year with peace ✝ and hope, and joy.
Amen.

CLOSING SONG *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* **ELW 282**
v. 1, 4

DISMISSAL

We go in peace serving the Lord,
with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

To our family here at Zion, we would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all of our members who have given their time and talents in the past year.

It is through this energy and commitment that Zion can continue the ministry of the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May this new year of 2023 bring us new visions and hope. May the ministry here at Zion continue to grow here within our congregation and our community.

God Bless you all.

Happy New Year

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

213501 Legacy Street

Stratford, WI 54484-5908

715.687.4110 + <https://zionstratford.org>