

"In him you also,
when you had heard
the word of truth,
the gospel of your
salvation,
and had believed in
Him,
were marked with the
seal of the promised
Holy Spirit"
- Ephesians 1:13



Affirmation of Baptism
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 8, 2022 + 9:00 a.m.

Congregational responses are in BOLD.

All are welcome to receive Jesus' unconditional gift of God's grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. The people of Zion practice eucharistic hospitality.

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 on 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, hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or at office@zionstratford.org or Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel at 715.391.9311 or pastor@zionstratford.org.

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

Interim Pastor: Andrea Fluegel

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Busche

Organists: Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke

Custodians: Barb Kaiser, Gerry Viegut

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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Scripture Focus: We are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ, who gathers us around word and water, wine and bread. Baptism is a significant part of our faith journey as we come from the baptismal waters to live a new life as children of God.

Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, our relationships in our community and the wider world. Living our baptismal covenant means living a life of growth in the faith practices of discipleship.

*The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 236). We are to “...**live** among God’s faithful people; **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper; **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; **serve** all people following the example of Jesus; and **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth.”*

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

INVOCATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On this day, we celebrate that Jesus overcame death,
so that we may have new life.

Alleluia! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the waters of baptism,
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,
who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,

**flowing freely from your throne:
through the earth, through the city,
through every living thing.**

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;

You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.

**You open the gate of righteousness
and we pass safely through.**

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water
and awaken your church once more.

**Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our
thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.**

To you, our Beginning and our End,
our Shepherd and Lamb,

be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

Hymn 574

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“This Is the Feast”

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for sending to us these believers that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other and serve our neighbor to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING

Joshua 1:4-9

⁴From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. ⁵No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it.

For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. ⁹ I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

SECOND READING

Isaiah 35:1-4a

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,

the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,

and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

THIRD READING

Mark 10:23-27

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of

God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But

Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the

kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of

God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one

another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and

said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Alleluia”*

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GOSPEL**Matthew 28:16-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-eighth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE WORD*"I Love To Tell the Story"***Hymn 661 Vs. 1****SERMON****Pastor Andrea Fluegel****HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Will You Come And Follow Me"***Hymn 798 Vs. 1,4,5****AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the Church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Faith Formation Leaders: I present the following youth, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism:

*Ryan Brubaker, son of Kay & Mike Kissinger and
Adam & Michaela Brubaker*

Jacob Dahlke, son of Russ and Cheryl Dahlke

Casey Dasler, daughter of Ted and Jill Dasler

Hailey Federwitz, daughter of Dale and Kristine Federwitz

Koehler Kilty, son of Patrick and Keresia Kilty

Aliya Manecke, daughter of Wes and Keri Manecke

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Confirmand response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Confirmand response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmand response: I renounce them.

Minister addresses the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

Congregation response: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

BLESSING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

WELCOMING THE CONFIRMANDS

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses and servants in the name of our Risen Savior.

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Zion Lutheran Church, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unflinching trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord God of our ancestors, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do with our sons and daughters. Walk with them in life, and keep the evil one from obstructing their path. You see all; you know where the water is deep. Keep them from danger. Order their steps and guide their feet while they run the race of faith. May the good work that you have begun in them be brought to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation. Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes. We lift before you all the people, places, and circumstances that we now name silently in our hearts or aloud with our voices...God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Inspire the words of prophets and saints who employ innovative imagery to stretch our understanding. Send Christ to instruct us with motherly care. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

“Beautiful Savior”

“How Great Thou Art”

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Hymn 838

Hymn 856

BLESSING

PRAYER

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION (based on John 14)

Listen to the promise Jesus makes:

I will never abandon you—I will come to you.
Even though the world will not be able to see me,
I will never vanish from your sight.
And since I live, you will also live.

Go from here in the knowledge
that you do not go alone:
the power and presence of God goes with you.
Praise be to God!

HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Hymn 543

DISMISSAL (based on Mark 16:15-16)

And Jesus said to all of us, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Scriptures of Faith

Ryan Brubaker

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” - John 14:27

Jacob Dahlke

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” - Joshua 1:9

Casey Dasler

The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. - Mark 16:16

Hailey Federwitz

*It shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
- Isaiah 35:2*

Koehler Kilty

Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” - Mark 10:27

Aliya Manecke

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Matthew 28:19-20*

Zion Lutheran Church
Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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