



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022 + 9:00 a.m.

Baptism of Rylynn Jae Wilke

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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"Confession and Forgiveness" written by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on the Liturgies Online website. Also posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/prayer-of-confession-maundy-thursday.html>.

*Scripture Focus: Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.**

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God's love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who certainly loved us to the uttermost; Jesus – Savior and Lord – who at his last meal with his disciples gave them – and us – a new commandment: “...*love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

Let us now confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for individual reflection and confession.

Merciful God,

we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak, when we have failed to serve as Jesus served; forgive us.

**When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us;
forgive us.**

**When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus
with our lips and then denied him by our actions;
forgive us.**

**Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true
to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (based on John 12:47; 13:1)
Jesus said: *"I came not to judge the world, but to save the world"*
and *"having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them
to the end."*

The good news therefore is this: +In Jesus Christ, we are loved and
we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

HYMN

"Gather Us In"

Hymn 532 vs 1, 3, 4

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"

Page 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.**

PSALM

Psalms 148

*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *"Alleluia"*

Page 151

GOSPEL**John 13:31-35**

The Holy Gospel according to John the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.**

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.****THE WORD*****"I Love To Tell the Story"*****Hymn 661 Vs. 1, 2****SERMON****Pastor Andrea Fluegel****HYMN OF THE DAY*****"Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"*****Hymn 358 Vs. 1, 2****BAPTISM OF RYLYNN JAE WILKE****BAPTISMAL HYMN*****"Baptized & Set Free"*****Hymn 453 vs 1, 4**

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.

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the ministry of Mosquito Nets of the ELCA in Malawi. Protect your children of every age from the devastating health crisis of malaria infection. Keep them safe from malaria-infested mosquitoes and keep them healthy in order that they may carry on your ministry in this world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear merciful Lord, please stay near our service men and women as they fight for our freedom. Protect them from the enemy and be a constant reminder in their hearts that they are dearly loved and respected by many. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Holy Spirit reign down upon us and lead a faithful shepherd and servant to this gathered people. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. We now lift before you, Gracious God, all the people, places, and circumstances that are on our hearts and minds...God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. 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

"O Lamb of God"

Page 154

"I Come With Joy"

Hymn 482

"Around You, O Lord Jesus"

Hymn 468

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

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"

Hymn 836

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Additional Prayers for this Week

Merciful and most high God, creator and giver of life, you have called all people from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life. Grant grace to Rylynn and her parents and bless them. Raise them by your Spirit. Revive them by your Word. Form them by your hands. Bring them to the water of life and to the bread and cup of blessing, that with all your people they may bear witness to your grace and praise you forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, grant that your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Merciful Lord, anything that is hindering me, that is keeping me from seeing You clearly – anything that is distorting my vision, anything that could be blinding me, I ask Lord that You will cleanse me, renew and restore my vision. I want to see You, God, and I want to see clearly so that You can show me the most wonderful things. Give me wisdom and discernment. Eyes that see and ears that hear You. Thank you, Lord.

Zion Lutheran Church
Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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