



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 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: Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.**

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.**

HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

Hymn 793

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

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:

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through 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 16:9-15

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.**

PSALM

Psalm 67

*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

*John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia"

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GOSPEL**John 14:23-29**

The Holy Gospel according to John the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

*As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.**

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

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** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”***Hymn 631 vs 1-3**

BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

Laura Aschenbrenner
Malia Hoesley
Logan Gliniecki
Gunner Mercer

Heidi Moen
Tanner Oertel
Devin Ulrich

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.

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of life and wisdom, remember in prayer students at college, university and seminary as they prepare for final exams, celebrate graduation or begin their careers, that they might find opportunities to use their gifts, faith and passion in service to their neighbors and communities. We are thankful for Sara Dasler and all of our family members who are graduating college, technical school, community college, apprenticeship, and graduate studies. Give them passion, courage and discernment. Help them to know your calling in their lives. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, gracious God, for creation that surprises, threatens, and amazes us. It provides all our needs in body and nourishes our spirits with peace. Bless the farmers of our sister synod of Malawi, as well as the farmers of our synod, with fertile ground and abundant crops. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we ask that you surround our military with your loving arms - protect them, give them strength to carry on each day, to give them peace in their hearts to know that we love them and care for them. Father, bless each and every one of them today and every day that follows. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace. Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. We lift before you all the people, places and circumstances on our hearts and minds...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.**

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people. Accomplish your will through their efforts. Help us to be a place of open doors, open hearts and open hands. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died when we meet together at your river 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"

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"When Peace Like a River"

Hymn 785

"Lord Of All Hopefulness"

Hymn 765

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 *"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"*

Hymn 763 vs 1-3

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Additional Prayers for this Week

You are welcome to post your prayer requests or pray for others on the Zion Lutheran website at <https://zionstratford.org/prayer/>.

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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