



**Quest As A Spiritual Practice:  
The Encounter  
3rd Sunday After Pentecost  
June 26, 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. 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 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](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) or Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel at 715.391.9311 or [pastor@zionstratford.org](mailto: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, Ryan Huther

**Custodians:** Barb Kaiser, Gerry Viegut

**Missionaries:** Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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*Scripture Focus: Jesus often crossed paths with others not from his “tribe.” He did not shy away. Actually, he most often sought out these opportunities. He met people in their daily lives and locales, such as the Samaritan woman at the well and her community, and engaged with them at the point of their deepest yearning. When we seek out and open to new encounters, new people, new relationships, we allow ourselves a spiritual rendezvous with humanity. And in this act, we discover more depth within us than we previously imagined. How can we shift our perception, redefining “strangers” as “friends we have not yet met?”*

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING**

### **We Gather in Grace**

## **ENTERING THE JOURNEY**

## **INVOCATION**

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

**GATHERING HYMN “Christ, Be Our Light” Hymn 715 vs. 1, 2, 5**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Weary travelers are part of so many stories of encounter and hospitality. Jesus was surely weary, stopping at a well in the heat of the day for a drink. In his encounter there, a woman gives him a drink. The scripture we will read about this says that Jews and Samaritans do not share things in common. But it seems they did share something in common in that moment. They shared a thirst for water, and ultimately the water of life that flowed between them from the Heart of the Divine.

Let us remember our own thirst for the living water, especially when we are weary and afraid. Let us pray:

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, through what we have done and left undone.**

**Forgive us when we forget your hospitality, and the call to extend it to others.**

**Guide us as we seek to turn around toward greater love.**

**Lead us to travel in your ways. Amen.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another with a moment of silence for reflection and individual confession.

Know this:

The cup of grace is extended to us already and always.

At our moments of isolation,

Jesus offers invitation and relationship.

He is our constant companion,

inviting us to meet and companion one another,

traveling together toward the Kingdom of Love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. 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**

***“Let All Things Now Living”***

**Hymn 881**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

**Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path, inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other. Open us to the depth of our connections even when it seems difference is so profound. Show us our shared humanity so that we will know what others love, see that we love the same, and share the burdens and the love. Nudge and guide us, we pray. Amen.**

## We Hear the Word of God

### PSALM

Psalm 146

*The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow. (Psalm 146:9)*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia”

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### GOSPEL

John 4:7-26

The Holy Gospel according to John the fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

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

## **CHILDREN’S TIME OF UNPACKING**

**THE WORD** *“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”* Hymn 326 vs. 1, 2

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Will You Come and Follow Me”*

Hymn 798 vs. 1, 2, 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

God of faithfulness, set the face of your church firmly on you. Rooted in your self-giving love, may the church find freedom in loving our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of gentleness, strengthen the earth’s ability to heal. Where there are dangerous storms, bring calm. Where there are destructive fires, bring rain. Protect homes, habitats, and livelihoods threatened by climate disasters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of kindness, reveal your healing presence to all who are sick or dying. Uphold those who grieve. Support the needs of any who are unemployed, hungry, or have nowhere to lay their heads. We pray for all the people, places and circumstances that we now name aloud or silently in our hearts... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, attend to those struggling with addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger. Provide support systems and loving companions as they work toward health, that they may rest in hope and know the fullness of joy in your presence. God of grace, **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 of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the traveler, please protect us on the journey we are about to take, following your call to love and serve the neighbor. Support us with your strength and grace when we are weary. Help us to be mindful of your presence and love in times of stress and guide us to make our time together meaningful and memorable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possession. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

The Holy Living God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of Grace,  
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you.  
Your delight filled the skies and land  
with colors beyond the spectrum of our knowing.  
Your playful creating offered up humankind  
with such diversity that we cannot comprehend it.  
Your breath left waters frothy and lungs exploding  
with the power of life and prophetic utterances.  
And yet we back away from such promise,  
unable to claim your love as ours.  
But here you are to meet us—speak to us—once again,  
always faithful, always present  
in this Body [the table]... in this Body [the people].

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

And so, together we proclaim the praise-filled truth of your glory  
along with all the saints:

**Holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!**  
**Blest are they who come in your name!**  
**Heav'n and earth are full of your glory!**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
He proclaimed freedom for the bound,  
justice for the oppressed, grace for the lost,  
love for the prodigal.  
By the power of this message  
and the surprise of resurrection in the face of death,  
the world is immersed again in the baptism of love  
and redemption.

Through the life and ministry of Jesus,  
we can imagine and live into a Kingdom of love.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And so,  
We remember...  
We offer ourselves ...  
We claim a new freedom in this truth...

**Christ has died, yet Christ is risen;  
Christ has died, yet Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again in glory  
Hosanna in the highest!**

I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer...

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the vision of your Reign realized,  
so that we may be for the world your dream come true.

By your Spirit open us to each other and to the world,  
making us one in You, through Christ,  
in the power of Your redeeming Grace! **Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*"Lamb of God"*

**Page 154**

*"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"*

**Hymn 708**

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

**Hymn 471**

### **BLESSING**

## **PRAYER**

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## **We Serve the World in God's Name**

## **BENEDICTION**

As you encounter others,  
especially those not in your immediate circles,  
may you be aware that these very moments  
are spiritual acts of expanding your horizon,  
traveling beyond your preconceptions,  
and embracing the infinite delight of this earth and its beings.

And may the Creator continue your unfolding,  
the +Christ accompany your deeper knowing,  
the Spirit enliven your growing,  
until one day we all gather in the Kingdom of Love.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*"Go to the World"*

**Hymn 991**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Love the neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **Zion Lutheran Church**

*Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands*

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