



**Language of the Spirit:  
Who Is the Spirit?  
8th Sunday After Pentecost  
July 31, 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).

**Zion-Public WiFi password: Zion54484**

**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

**Custodian:** Gerry Viegut

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

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*Individual prayer before worship: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful: Grant that by the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (from the Canticle in the Nordic Lutheran Church of Sweden)*

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING**

### **We Gather in Grace**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER**

The words God speaks  
are the life and sustenance  
of all that exists.

The life Jesus gives  
is the re-creation and renewed birth  
of all that is broken and worn.

The Spirit's stirring in our souls  
is the inspiration  
for creativity, compassion, joy and community.

**Life-giving, life-restoring, life-fulfilling God;  
may our whole lives be worship.  
In all things, may we seek to connect with  
and to reflect your love and your hope. Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN    “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”    Hymn 942**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin  
to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for individual confession and self-reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God who is rich in mercy, loved us  
even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power  
through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

### **GREETING**

The love of God poured into your hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”*

**Hymn 414 vs. 1, 4**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of Wind and Fire, we are more aware than ever of our deep need for you. It’s true - we do not know how to pray. We do not know how to form on our lips the words to express the prayer that lingers on our hearts. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit - comforter, teacher, inspiration, and translator of every soul’s deepest needs.

**Guide and bless all of us today God. Free us from whatever safeguards we have placed around us to keep our lives and worship predictable. Free us to encounter you in a new way, that your Spirit might truly dance in our midst and inspire us to love and service in Christ’s name. Amen.**

## We Hear the Word of God

### FIRST READING

**Romans 8:19-27**

<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Alleluia”*

**Page 151**

### GOSPEL

**Luke 11:5-13**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the eleventh chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’”

<sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

**THE WORD** *“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”* Hymn 400 vs. 3

**SERMON**

**Pastor Andrea Fluegel**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”*

**Hymn 396 vs 1-3**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, truck drivers, grocery store workers and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its habitants. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, especially military personnel, police, first responders, and activists, and for the healing of the nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress. Open us to the cries of those who suffer. We ask that the Holy Spirit intercede for us when we have no words. Gracious Lord, we now name silently in our hearts or aloud with our voices all the people, places and circumstances on our hearts and minds... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place. Strengthen the Stratford Area Food Pantry for service and care of all your people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us, O Lord, to be about the work of your kingdom even as the search for a new pastor continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility, and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints. Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**



Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **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 possessions. 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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*"Lamb of God"*

**Page 154**

*"Blessed Assurance"*

**Hymn 638**

*"There's A Wideness in God's Mercy"*

**Hymn 588**

## **BLESSING**

### **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## We Serve the World in God's Name

### **BENEDICTION**

As you enter a new week,  
may you experience God's presence.  
May you feel God pouring out the Holy Spirit  
over your heads and your thoughts and the words of your lips,  
over your hearts and your feelings and emotions  
and your compassion for all others,  
and over your hands and your feet  
as you put into action all that God commands you.

During this week,  
may the grace of the +Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with each of you. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**    *"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"* Hymn 551

### **DISMISSAL**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

# WORSHIP NOTES

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## **Zion Lutheran Church**

*Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands*

213501 Legacy Street  
Stratford, WI 54484-5908  
715.687.4110 + <https://zionstratford.org>