



**Language of the Spirit:
Breath of God
9th Sunday After Pentecost
August 7, 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 or Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel at 715.391.9311 or 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,

Custodian: Gerry Viegut, Gene Schedlo

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

"Morning Has Broken"

Hymn 556

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

Compassionate God,
the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life
for all who long for you.

**One breath from you and we are rescued
from the arid valley of dry bones,**

given muscles and tendons and joy with which to praise you,
and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children.

**Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit,
that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom,
and what looks to us to be death
may be revealed as but sleep
before the emergence of new life. Amen.**

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Alleluia”*

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GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

The Holy Gospel according to John the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

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

“Restore in Us, O God”

Hymn 328

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your loving kindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you. Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. 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.**

Let your loving kindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation, especially GermanFest, visiting those who are homebound, and the Stratford Food Pantry, and all who care for those in need. 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.**

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. 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”

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“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Hymn 733

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

Hymn 763

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

“Go, My Children”

Hymn 543

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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