



The Cost of Discipleship
13th Sunday After Pentecost
September 4, 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: Seeking Applicants

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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Call to Worship written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith.
<http://spaciousfaith.com/tag/deuteronomy-30/>

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has set before us life and death.

We long to choose life.

God has set before us blessings and curses.

We long to choose blessings.

So we gather this morning around the table—Christ’s table.

We gather to drink the cup of blessing; to eat the bread of life.

Let us share the meal together. Let us feast on the Word.

Let us worship God with joy!

GATHERING HYMN *“Listen, God is Calling”* **Hymn 513**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,

who is eager to forgive

and who loves us beyond our days.

Amen.

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for individual confession and self-reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.
We have harmed your good creation.
We have failed to do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with you.
Turn us in a new direction.
Show us the path that leads to life.
Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Beloved of God:
your sins are forgiven ✝ and you are made whole.
God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.
Journey now in God's abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit.
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 *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"* Hymn 733 vs. 1

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

PSALM (Read Responsively)

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.**

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

- ¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ **Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**
- ¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ **I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Alleluia”*

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GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the fourteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE WORD *“O Savior, Precious Savior”*

Hymn 820 vs. 1

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

HYMN OF THE DAY *“God’s Work, Our Hands”*

Hymn 1000

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care. We lift before you now all the people, places and circumstances on our hearts and minds... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear 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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors. Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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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"Will You Come and Follow Me"

Hymn 798

BLESSING

PRAYER

O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and ✚ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *"Lift High the Cross"*

Hymn 660

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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