



Lost and Found
14th Sunday After Pentecost
September 11, 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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PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home;

**God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us
and waste the gifts we have been given.**

God calls and welcomes us back to worship this day;

**let us celebrate and rejoice in God's presence forever;
let us worship God together.**

GATHERING HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount"

Hymn 807

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

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING

Exodus 32:7-14

⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

PSALM (Read Responsively)

Psalms 51:1-10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

**²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**⁶You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Alleluia”*

Page 151

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?” ⁵

Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives. Fill your church with faith and love, and give understanding hearts to those who work to strengthen our ecumenical and interreligious commitments. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution and lack of care. As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats. Bless us with bountiful harvests that all may share. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy. Teach wisdom to our elected leaders so that we know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. Provide for those in any need. We lift before you all the people, places and circumstances on our hearts and minds...God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts. Build up the ministries of this community that we serve our neighbors and welcome the stranger in your name. 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.**

Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence. Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives, and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you. 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"

Page 154

"Amazing Grace"

Hymn 779

"Softly and Tenderly"

Hymn 608

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 *"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"*

Hymn 536

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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