



Our Money Story: Reimagine

17th Sunday After Pentecost

October 2, 2022 + 9:00 a.m.

Baptism of Callie Ann Kaiser & Jolie Elizabeth Kaiser

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, Judy Polege

Custodian: Seeking Applicants

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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Thoughts for the Week:

Scripture calls us to reimagine a world where our social and economic systems are not built to disparage or impoverish, but instead to provide for and benefit all. This week we revisit the story of the widow's mite, a scripture that begs for reimagination and reinterpretation from the harmful ways it has been used. Instead of commending the widow's giving practices, perhaps, Jesus is condemning the economic system that created her poverty. The Jewish practice of the Jubilee year invites us to imagine leaving the edge of the harvest for the poor and immigrant to reap; in the fiftieth year, the harvest is shared and disparities are rebalanced. In light of these stories in scripture, we are called to reimagine our own money stories.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP

Can you imagine unfettered love?

Free and bold, wild and true, the kind of love that changes you?

Can you imagine a home - safe and bright,

With impromptu dancing, meals around the table, and laughter late into the night?

Can you imagine faith like a compass

that guides the way you shop and vote, the way you love and hope:

that asks questions and yet still believes, even despite uncertainty?

Can you imagine a world where trees, bees, and all living things grow wild and free?

Where peace is the narrative and hope the currency?

A world where news stories are testimonies and funerals are far between?

Can you imagine?

Yes, we can imagine.

Today in worship, dare to dream. Dare to imagine what could be. And pay attention, for God is here, in wandering thoughts, hopes, and prayers.

Let us worship holy God, that great unfettered love.

GATHERING HYMN “All Are Welcome” Hymn 641 vs 1, 4, 5

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.

Gracious God,

You invite us to dream of a better world.

But instead we bury our heads in the sand.

We are afraid to recognize how much must change.

We are afraid, because if we know the truth, then don't we have a job to do?

So instead, more often than not, we maintain the status quo.

We passively allow things to stay the same.

We don't speak out; we don't imagine a new day.

We don't dream of a world without racism, sexism, bigotry, or shame.

Instead we allow ourselves to believe that some things will never change.

Forgive us. Show us the way. Teach us to dream.

Teach us to imagine again.

Humbly we pray.

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 *"For the Fruit of All Creation"* Hymn 679 vs 1

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,

We want to see what you see.

We want to see what you see,

But we stumble through roadblocks of bias and narrow perspective, fear and limited information.

We are too small to imagine the type
of love and beauty you can sow.

**So in this moment, we ask that you would clear
the roadblocks that keep us from you.**

Blow the dust out of our ears.

Thaw out the frozen parts of our hearts.

Tell the logical arguments we form
about what will and will not work to take a backseat.

And as you do,

**Breathe fresh air into our lungs and fill our minds
with endless possibilities.**

We want to see what you see.

We want to reimagine this life we're living.

Clear away the roadblocks.

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING

Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12

^{19:9} “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

^{25:8} “You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the Day of Atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.

It shall be a Jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. ¹¹ That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee for you: you shall not sow or reap the aftergrowth or harvest the unpruned vines. ¹² For it is a Jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Alleluia”*

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GOSPEL

Mark 12:38-44

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the twelfth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸ As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Christ, Be Our Light”* Hymn 715 vs 1,3,5

BAPTISM

Callie and Jolie Kaiser

BAPTISMAL HYMN *“Baptized and Set Free”* Hymn 453 vs 1, 4

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 your holy church in every place and for those who serve following the example of Christ. Help them to live by faith and walk by the light of your gospel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For parts of the world ravaged by natural disaster: relieve those affected by floods, wildfires, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For every nation and for those entrusted with authority: grant our leaders self-discipline in all things, and inspire them with love for your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For victims of violence, abuse, and neglect: heal those who have been harmed and protect those who are vulnerable, and for all who are sick. We now lift before you all the people, places and circumstances on our hearts and minds ... God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For this and every congregation: rekindle your gifts within your people, and inspire councils, committees, and individuals to plan and work together that all may know your love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving that you have abolished death, and for the saints who have died. Bring us all to 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.**

KIDS' GLOBAL OFFERING

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jesus of Nazareth,

In scripture we hear of a woman who gave her last coin away. You pointed her out, but you did not say, "Go and do likewise."

So we cannot help but wonder - did you point her out to ask, "Why does this one have so little when others have so much?" Did you point her out to help us see the injustice that led to her suffering?

Maybe.

**So today, for her, and for you,
and for every person who cannot afford to give to God
and put food on the table, we offer our gifts.
We pray that you would use them for your good.**

Right what is wrong.

Balance the systems of injustice.

**Use these gifts to build the world that we can only imagine
but you can bring forth.**

In hope we pray,

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The dinner table is always a place where we tell stories.
We tell stories of growing up and falling in love,
of making mistakes and figuring it out.
We tell stories that make us laugh, stories that make us cry,
and stories that help us remember.

This table is no different.
For at this table we tell stories
about a God who loves us unconditionally.
We tell stories about a Redeemer who fed the hungry,
washed the feet of the disciples, and said,
"This is my body - for you."

So friends, as you come to this table today, bring your stories -
Stories about who you are and who you want to be.
Stories of shame and disappointment, stories of fear and faith.
Bring your money stories, your faith stories,
your love and heartbreak stories - bring them all.
For no matter the narrative, God welcomes us at this table.

You belong here.
There is a seat saved for you.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Lamb of God"

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"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"

Hymn 708

"One Bread, One Body"

Hymn 496

BLESSING

PRAYER

Holy God, as we leave this table,
help us to remember this moment.
Help us remember that with you, all are invited.
Help us remember that with you, there is a seat for everyone.
Help us remember that with you,
there is enough food to go around,
that even Judas was invited to the meal,
and there is manna in the wilderness.
Help us remember so that as we go,
we can build tables like this in the world.
We need more tables like this in the world.
Gratefully we pray, **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 SONG *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*

Hymn 678

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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