



Our Money Story: Restore
18th Sunday After Pentecost
October 9, 2022 + 9:00 a.m.

Zion-Public WiFi password: Zion54484

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.

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: Kendra Edward

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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Thoughts for the Week:

As we have practiced remembering, releasing, and reimagining, we conclude our series by focusing on restoration. Ultimately, practicing faithful stewardship heals us as individuals and helps us restore right relationship with one another. In Genesis 33, Jacob and Esau experience a surprising reconciliation after years of strife and estrangement. In the final chapter of John's gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples and fills their empty fishing nets. Even after death, Jesus restores our hope and provides an abundant feast.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP

In worship we tell a story:

A story of an unfettered love that changed the world.

In worship we tell a story:

A story of how we live and how we long to live.

In worship we tell a story:

Because we are forgetful people.

So may we remember who we are.

May we release the narratives that trap us.

May we reimagine this world to see what God sees.

And may we work toward restoration.

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

Let us worship holy God.

GATHERING HYMN *"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"*

Hymn

860

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.

Holy God,

To restore is to bring back;

**So today we bring our hearts back to you,
our thoughts back to love,
and our prayers back to peace.**

**We try to stay in this place, but we confess,
it's never been that easy for us.**

We flirt with reconciliation and then back away.

**We come face-to-face with an opportunity for justice,
but get scared.**

**We are offered an opportunity to re-write our story,
but we lose our way.**

Bring us back to this moment.

**Bring us back to your story where brothers extend grace
to one another and even the one who denied it was forgiven.**

Bring us back. Restore us. Forgive us.

Gratefully 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

God,

We cannot do the work of restoration without your Word.

We cannot do the work of remembering, releasing, or reimaging without your Word.

We need you like the earth needs rain and a sailboat needs wind.

**We come to you in prayer to ask
that you breathe new life into us.**

Grant us the clarity needed to hear your Word anew.

And as you do, restore us to your breath.

Restore us to your Word.

Restore us to one another.

Gratefully we pray. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING

Genesis 33:1-11

Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. ² He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all.

³ He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵ When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?”

Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." ⁶ Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; ⁷ Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. ⁸ Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor with my lord." ⁹ But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." ¹⁰ Jacob said, "No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand, for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God, since you have received me with such favor. ¹¹ Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have everything I want." So he urged him, and he took it.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *"Alleluia"*

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GOSPEL

John 21:1-19

The Holy Gospel according to John the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some."

So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

CHILDREN'S GOOD NEWS

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Give Me a Servant's Heart"* Zion Praise Choir

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a restoring God,

Who restores our bodies through the gift of Sabbath.

We believe in a restoring God,

**Who restores our souls through the gift of grace
and second chances.**

We believe in a restoring God,

**Who restores this hurting world
through the gift of mercy and God's son Jesus Christ.**

And we believe in a restoring God who invites us
to join in this restoration work.

**As a people of faith, we seek to restore creation to God
by feeding the hungry, loving our neighbors,
forgiving seventy times seven, welcoming the children,
seeing all, loving all, and living like we belong to all.**

And so we will work until God's promised day.

This we believe. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Restoring God,

You have always been in the business of beginning again with us,
or restoration and return.

First you breathed life into dust.

Then you guided brother back to brother after years apart.

You sent prophets when the people lost their way.

You fed the hungry and healed the sick.

You let the little children come to you.

You forgave us from the cross,
and then you returned to remind us of our call.
You have always been in the world of restoration -
of seeing us, claiming us, loving us, and inviting us
to return to you.

Today we come to you in prayer, asking that once more,
you would restore us -

All of all of us.

Restore our narratives about who we are to truth.

Restore our actions toward one another to love.

Restore our dreams for this world to your dream for us.

And when our time and place tries to teach us
that a man's worth is his income,
that men cannot display emotion,
and that being sensitive is feminine,
O God, hear our prayer:

Restore all of who we are to you.

And when our time and place teaches us
that a woman's beauty is more valuable than her soul,
that a woman's body is property,
and that a woman's "no" is optional -
O God, hear our prayer:

Restore all of who we are to you.

And when our time and place teaches
that brown bodies and black bodies
are less valuable than white bodies,
give us the strength to speak out
and to expect more from our history teachers,
our churches, our law enforcement, and our politicians.
O God, hear our prayer:

Restore all of who we are to you.

And when our time and place tries to ignore
the impacts of our consumer practices,
may we remember the hurricanes, wildfires,
and tornadoes of the last year -
may we remember the consequences of global warming.
O God, hear our prayer:

Restore all of who we are to you.

And when our church places shame,
instead of caring for everyone,
when we idolize tradition instead of making room
for the Spirit to move,
and when we forget your call to love our neighbors as ourselves,
O God, hear our prayer:

Restore all of who we are to you.

Holy God, you have always been in the business
of beginning again with us, of restoration and return.
We trust that you hear our prayer.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Redeemer and Restorer.
Amen.

KIDS' GLOBAL OFFERING/OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God,
There was Eden, and then there was east of Eden;
Which is all to say - this world is not what you intended it to be.
You planted a garden and dreamed of Sabbath - and it was good.
It was so very good.

However, when we look around today,
we know that we have lost our way.
**So today we bring our hearts, minds, and money
back to you in hopes that you will sow good.**

This is the work of restoration,
for we want to be a restoration people.
Use these gifts for your hurting world.
Restore us to you, O God. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

On the night of his arrest, Jesus had dinner with his friends.
And for a moment, all was right in the world.
Betrayal would come, suffering would come,
grief and death would come,
But for a moment - for that moment - they were together,
and everything was holy.
So many years later, we gather around this table
to get a glimpse of that moment.
For when we gather around this table,
we remember that all are welcome here.
When we gather around this table,
we release the worldly narrative that only those
with status or wealth deserve to be fed.
When we gather around this table,
we can reimagine what could be -
what a world could look like when we all belong.
And so we gather around this table as an act of restoration,
as an act of resistance, as an act of faith.

So, come.

Come with your dreams and your memories.

Come with your full authentic self - scars and all.

Come with your questions, your wonderings, your hopes,
and your prayers.

Come because this is a moment of restoration,
a moment where everything is holy. So, come.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Lamb of God”

“Healer of Our Every Ill

“There Is A Balm in Gilead”

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Hymn 612

Hymn 614

BLESSING

PRAYER

Holy God,

We are not sure what restoration for this world will look like,

But we’re pretty sure it’ll feel like this -

a meal where all are fed,

a place where all are welcomed,

and a table with a seat saved for each and every one of us.

Remind us of this truth in the coming day,

and continue to restore all of us to you.

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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