



**God's Faithfulness
Through the Generations:
Commandments & Covenants
19th Sunday After Pentecost
October 16, 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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Confession and Forgiveness written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his
Lectionary Liturgies blog.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called to bring a new understanding of God:
that God so loves the world.

We are the salt of the earth.

We are called to bring a new hope in God:
that God gives us new life.

We are the light of the world.

We are called to follow
the commandments and the law.

The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.

Come, let us be the salt of the earth,
the light of the world.

Come, let us love one another with the love of God.

**Let us join together in our love of God
to worship and follow Jesus.**

GATHERING HYMN *“God Is Here!”*

ELW #526 vs. 1, 3, 4

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Perhaps we have spoken words which harm another. It may be that we have failed to honor another of God's children. Maybe, we have let our fears, our worries, our desires come between us and God. Whatever we might have done, God waits to listen to us, to offer us grace and healing. Join me as we pray together saying,

Even with those simple commandments, Eternal Love, we manage to get it wrong. We misuse your name on an almost daily basis, and dishonor our friends and neighbors by talking behind their backs. We hunger for what others have, and think we can put you in a box, storing you away on a shelf. We find little enough time for our families, for ourselves, you - much less setting aside an entire day for that rest you call Sabbath.

Forgive us, Abiding Love. We think we are so wise with the choices we make, only to end up with all that keeps us from you. Your Word has come, to fill our speech with grace, with hope, with peace. As we journey to Jerusalem, may we invite others to join us as we seek to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior.

Silence is kept for individual reflection and confession.

Day to day, God offers us mercy and hope.
Moment to moment,
we are surrounded by God's never-ending love.
Friends, trust this Good News for you!
**God takes our brokenhearted prayers
and crafts them into words of grace, of joy, of peace.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. 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 *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

ELW 858 vs 1 & 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the commandments, you gave the Israelites laws so that they might live in harmony with one another. Show us how to live in peace, so that all may know of your love. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING

Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17

³ Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶ but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.” ⁷ So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him.

Then God spoke all these words,

² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.
¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
¹³ “You shall not murder.
¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.
¹⁵ “You shall not steal.
¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Alleluia”*

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GOSPEL

Matthew 5:14-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

CHILDREN’S GOOD NEWS

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”*

ELW 800

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Grant your followers persistence in proclamation and prayer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients and nursing home residents without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken. O God of compassion, we lift before you all the people, places and circumstances on our hearts and minds ... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work, especially Lutheran Social Service and the ELCA's strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) that they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow in Luke's Gospel, how much more will God respond to those who call. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace, that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

KIDS' GLOBAL OFFERING/OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Lamb of God"

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"Amazing Grace"

ELW #779

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW #838

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 SONG *"On Eagle's Wings"*

ELW #787

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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