



**Third Sunday After Epiphany
The Sermon on the Mount**

January 22, 2023 + 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 Pastor Amy Heinz at 608.498.5772 or pastoramy@zionstratford.org.

Ministers: All the People of God through the love of Jesus and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

Pastor: Rev. Amy Heinz

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Busche

Organists: Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke, Ryan Huther

Custodian: Rod Huther

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Gather in Grace

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER OF INVOCATION

A new day has begun!

Are you ready to give God praise?

We are ready!

Are you ready to leave behind the baggage?

We are ready!

Are you ready to step out in faith?

We are ready!

Are you ready to forgive?

We are ready!

Even the one who hurt you the most?

We are ready!

Are you ready to release your doubts and fears?

We are ready!

**O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! We are yours
and we are ready! Alleluia! Amen!**

<https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/church-year-new-year/>

GATHERING HYMN *"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"* **ELW 717**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us make a hopeful confession to God.

Brief silence for individual reflection and confession.

**We seek you, God, in the spaces of our lives.
The spaces between what we've done
and what we've left undone.
The spaces between our convictions
and our actions,
the spaces between all that we hoped to do,
and what we've actually done.
We come with humility,
knowing that we can't always see
the ways we've disappointed you,
nor can we always see
the long-term effects of the good we've done.
This is a prayer for the road ahead,
which is an empty space stretching before us.
Fill us with a burning compassion
for those around us,
a love that will not let us go.
Give us courage to give boldly,
love simply,
hope deeply,
risk greatly.
Our light is small,
our time is short,
but let it shine for you,
always, ever, all for you.
Amen.
God hears our fervent prayer.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
our sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

GREETING

May the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

ACS Setting 11

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God,

Your son Jesus taught many things that helped people know
how deeply you love humanity. Help us to live in your love, so
that we might be beacons of light for others. We pray these
things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Psalm 1:1-3

¹ Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,

² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees

planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

READING

Matthew 5:1-20

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON
Heinz

“The Church On the Hill”

Pastor Amy

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Canticle of the Turning”

ELW 723

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

O Triune God, grant us your gracious, guiding presence as we enter the new year. As we join Christians of every time who have awaited Jesus' return, lead us into this new time, confident that your promises will be fulfilled. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Spirit of Truth, call us to repentance in this new year. Forgive us for past unfaithfulness, silence in the face of injustice, and inaction amid suffering. Move us from the desire to hoard our wealth toward faithful stewardship. Help us to share your gifts with those who cry out for daily bread. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Prince of Peace, healer and reconciler, heal the divisions in your Church and among the peoples of the world. As you prayed that we should all be one, give us new visions to enable that unity. Be with us on our ecumenical journey, and with those sisters and brothers who surround us in the great cloud of witnesses. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

God of all ages, release us from fear. Lead us forward, even as you have led your Church forward from an empty cross and tomb through millenia. Be our companion as we walk unexplored paths into an unknown future. Open us to new possibilities. Renew our hope. Grant us faith to move ahead. Be our companion until Jesus comes again. In his name, we pray.

Amen.**

We Share the Meal

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”* ELW 691 Vs. 1

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Faithful God,

We look back on the year behind us and appreciate your presence with us through it. In this new year, grant that we may become more faithful, more committed to your kingdom work, more knowledgeable of your ways, more familiar with your spirit, more yielding to your instruction, and more willing to give of ourselves for others.

Accept our tithes and offerings this day as an act of faith and of worship.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 154

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715

“Blest Are They”

ELW 728

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

May the God who gave us the past year and the Savior who walked at our side each day and the Spirit who filled us with life abundant, grace this new year with peace ✝ and hope, and joy.
Amen.

CLOSING SONG "*Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service*" **ELW 712**
vs. 1, 4

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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