



**Second Sunday of Lent
The Laborers in the Vineyard**

March 5, 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 as are found in the front of the cranberry-colored hymnal on the bottom of the page. Hymn numbers listed as ELW are 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

CENTERING AND BELLS' CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Gather in Grace

LENTEN PRAYER OF INVOCATION

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,
for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,
for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,
for we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.

O come, let us worship the Lord!**

GATHERING HYMN *“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”* ELW 510

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Brief silence for individual reflection and confession.

Lamb of God, we are burdened:

We do not love you as we should.

We forget our dependence on you and do not honor you.

Instead of glorifying you, we try to bring ourselves glory.

Lamb of God, we are burdened:

We do not love others as we should.

We hurry through our days and

miss opportunities to be your hands and feet.

We judge quickly and respond thoughtlessly.

Lamb of God, we are burdened:

We do not love ourselves as we should.

We disparage our appearances, criticize our best efforts, and misuse our bodies.

Lamb of God, we are burdened:

We are weighed down by the bad things that are done to us.

We hold grudges, harbor bad feelings, and believe lies told about us.

Lamb of God, we are burdened:

We are overwhelmed by sin.

You are a man of sorrows and you know our pain and suffering.

It is by your wounds that we are healed.

Take our burdens, we pray, and free us from sin. Amen.**

The Lord our God said:

I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you;

I will remove from you your heart of stone

and give you a true heart of love.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Generous God,

You have promised to open your kingdom to all people, despite their circumstances. Bring us close to you, and help us to proclaim the goodness of your generosity. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Psalm 16:5-8

⁵The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

⁷I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

READING

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said] "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Sara Bishop

HYMN OF THE DAY *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

ELW 588

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

A brief silence.

O Jesus, you know the anguish of our human lives.

As one who sees the pain of those who suffer,
bring comfort, peace, and strength, especially for...

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who has experienced the agony of and tears of losing loved ones,

comfort all who grieve, especially...

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who wept over the faithlessness of your people,

send your Spirit to correct us in our unfaithfulness, especially...

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who understands the agony of those who have been deserted,

stand alongside those who feel alone, lonely, and abandoned today, especially...

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who was once forsaken by all others,

give hope and assurance to those who feel rejection, especially...

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who knows the ravages of violence,
bring peace and healing to those who are tortured by enemies,
especially...

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Special Prayer Requests may be added

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You, our Lord, have offered up prayers with loud cries and tears;
hear us when we do the same.

We approach your throne of grace with boldness;
may we receive mercy and grace in our time of need.

Amen.**

OFFERING/NOISY OFFERING FOR TURKEY & SYRIA

OFFERTORY *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"* **ELW 686 Vs. 1, 2**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Compassionate God,

We offer you these gifts as signs of our time and labor. Receive the offering of our lives and feed us with your grace, that in the midst of death all creation might feast on your unending life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

ELW 538

DISMISSAL

We go in peace serving the Lord,

with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

**Wednesday Lenten Services
held at 5:30 pm.**

**Soup and Sandwich
following worship.**

March 8

**Council is serving funds will be going to
Confirmation Camp.**

March 15

**Faith Formation Team will be serving funds
will be going to United Way NOW
program.**

March 22

JTeam/Little Lutherans will be serving.

March 29

**Evangelism / Property Teams will be
serving.**

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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