



**Third Sunday of Lent
The Wedding Banquet**

March 12, 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 at 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, a 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 *"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"* **ELW 520**

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

**God of celebration,
You have invited all people to rejoice in the goodness of your
love. Help us to be hospitable to all people at your banquet, so
that all might receive your blessing. We pray in the name of
Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. Amen.**

We Hear the Word of God

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Psalm 45:6-7

⁶Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.

Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;

⁷you love righteousness and hate wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

“O Most High”

ZLC Choir

READING

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my

fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.’⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Heaven on Earth”

Rev. Nancy Amacher

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As Saints of Old”

ELW 695

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.

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 *"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"* **ELW 334**
vs. 1-3, Lent 2

DISMISSAL

We go in peace serving the Lord,

with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

***Thank you to Rev. Nancy Amacher for preaching
at worship this morning!***

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

**Soup and Sandwich
following worship.**

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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