



Fourth Sunday of Easter
Paul's Mission

Reception of New Members
April 30, 2023 + 9am

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

EASTER LITANY

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed him as God's own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

HYMN

"With High Delight Let Us Unite"

ELW 368

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

We begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters,
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his
family.

**Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into
freedom.**

At the river, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the
Holy Spirit.

**By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

**Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all,
**you opened your gates wide to receive all your children into the
heavenly kingdom. Help us to be vehicles of promise and
proclamation for all who will listen, that every soul might live in
your grace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Matthew 10:40-42

⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

READING

Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18

^{1:1} Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a childhood friend of Herod the ruler, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

^{14:8} In Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet and had never walked, for he had been lame from birth. ⁹ He listened to Paul as he was speaking. And Paul, looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰ said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And the man sprang up and began to walk. ¹¹ When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” ¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice.

¹⁴ When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, ¹⁵ “People, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. ¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all peoples to follow their own ways, ¹⁷ yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good, giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.” ¹⁸ Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON **Houston, We Have a Problem...** Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Soli Deo Gloria”* **ELW 878 v1,4,5**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us together say what we believe.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Responses with New members

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ, inviting them to work with you as the body of Christ, and welcoming their contributions as gifts of the Spirit?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Let us pray.

Holy God, we are grateful for the calling to be your servant people and that you have gathered us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number these brothers and sisters in faith. Together may we live in your Spirit and so love one another that we may be the body of Jesus Christ in the world. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Let us welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Joyfully we receive you. Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.
Alleluia!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With boldness we approach the throne of our risen and reigning Lord, deeply assured of mercy and grace in our time of need.

A brief silence.

Your rising and your reigning give hope to your people. May all who live without hope today taste and see that you are good.

So we pray,

O Lord of glory.

Your rising and your reigning call us, your people, to testify to your goodness. Equip each of us today to be bold witnesses of Easter news.

So we pray,

O Lord of glory.

Your rising and your reigning call all the nations of the world to stop their scheming and seek your peace. May your Spirit convince all people to submit to your rule and pursue true peace.

So we pray,

O Lord of glory.

Your rising and your reigning call each of us to turn from the path of death to the path of obedience and life. Send your Spirit to strengthen our resolve, and help us to live as people of life and light.

So we pray,

O Lord of glory.

Your rising and your reigning bring light and life and healing. May all who suffer in the valley of the shadow of death and illness know your healing presence.

So we pray,

O Lord of glory.

May we, your Easter people, never fail to bless and thank you for your immeasurable love and sure promises.

All praise to you, risen Christ, who with the Father and the Spirit lives in perfect communion forever and ever.

Amen.**

We Share the Meal

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“God Extends An Invitation”

ELW 486

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Good Shepherd,
you spread a table before us. We offer you our gifts, signs of
your gracious love and tokens of our grateful hearts. Nourish us
at the feast of the Lamb, that we may proclaim to all the world
your triumphant love in Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
whom you sent to save us.

He came with healing in his touch
and was wounded for our sins.

He came with mercy in his voice
and was mocked as one despised.

He came with peace in his heart
and met with violence and death.

By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb,
and at his command the gates of hell were opened.

The one who was dead now lives.

The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation,
the Lamb upon the throne.

The one ascended on high is with us always, as he promised.**

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and all the company of
heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW p. 207

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Lamb of God"

ELW p. 208

"O Bread of Life from Heaven"

ELW 480

"I Received the Living God"

ELW 477

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

As Christ burst forth from the tomb, may new life burst forth from us and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world. And may that same Christ, who lives forever and is the source of our new life, keep your hearts rejoicing and ✝ grant you peace this day and always.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

"In Christ Called to Baptize"

ELW 575

DISMISSAL

We go in peace to serve the risen 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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