



Sixth Sunday of Easter
God's Love Poured Out

Children Lead Worship
Mothers' Day
May 14, 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

CHILDREN'S LITANY

The love of God has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us;
we dwell in God and God dwells in us.
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name;
make known God's deeds among the peoples.
Sing praises to the Lord,
and speak of God's marvelous works.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!
Amen.**

HYMN

"Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading"

ELW 401

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*During this time, the children will sprinkle the congregation as a remembrance
of 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, thank you for this day!

Thank you for the birds and the animals, the flowers and the trees, the lakes and the streams, and the sun that rises and sets over them each day. Thank you for creating everything we see! Thank you for the life we live, and for making each person different. Thank you for Jesus, who died for us so that we might be free to live lives of service to all creation and one day live with you in heaven. Thank you for the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and helps us to believe in your love and mercy. What an amazing God you are! We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

We Hear the Word of God

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ [Jesus said] "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

READING

Romans 3:28-30; 5:1-11

^{3:28} For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of gentiles also? Yes, of gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one, and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

^{5:1} Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Cool Whip Containers

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Thy Holy Wings"

ELW 613

APOSTLES CREED

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 convict 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.

Your rising and your reigning call us to care for one another. We, your beloved children, give you thanks for all the good experiences of motherhood, and may your Holy Spirit bring healing to those experiences which have been painful.

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

"Jesus Loves Me"

ELW 595

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

ELW 815

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

“I’m Going on a Journey”

ELW 446

DISMISSAL

We go in peace to serve the risen Lord,
with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

JTeam / Little Lutherans

Kindergarten

Griffin Peirce

Ellie Southwick

Mila Johnson

Harvey Waddell

1st Grade

Jordy Spindler

Natalie Messerschmidt

2nd Grade

Turner Southwick

Averi Johnson

3rd Grade

Eleanor Smazal

Ryleigh Schiller

Dayton White

Finley White

Ian Maguire

4th Grade

Abigail Ballerstein

Nolan Peirce

Jevin Spindler

Reid Spindler

Brynn Wiesman

Ruby Casperson

5th Grade

Lily Cournoyer

Jackson Spindler

Avery White

Ella Schultz

6th Grade

Hudson Ballerstein

Sierra Krest

Charlotte Peirce

Anika Weber

Cooper Wiesman

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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