



Seventh Sunday of Easter
Hope of Resurrection

High School Graduate Recognition
May 21, 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

ZLC Choir

CENTERING AND BELLS' CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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

"I Will Celebrate"

on screen

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

**Almighty and eternal God,
so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds and our wills, so
fill our imaginations, that we may be wholly yours, utterly
dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, but
always to your glory and the welfare of your people. We pray
these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

We Hear the Word of God

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Matthew 6:24

²⁴ [Jesus said] “No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

READING

Romans 6:1-14

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Baptized to Death

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN OF THE DAY

“My Life Is In You”

on screen

APOSTLES’ CREED

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.**

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

A reading from the prophet Micah:

God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Parents present students with blankets.

Let us pray.

Students, may you be covered in God's blessing in the same way that you are covered by these blankets of congregational love. May you be challenged and given strength and wisdom to find new answers to those challenges. May you walk safely along the pathways of your dreams, and may hope be a light within you that you carry into each new day.

Amen.

May God's love follow you as you find new journeys to travel. May the Shepherd's hand guide the decisions you will make and the passions you will follow. May the Spirit live in you so that your life always reflects God's love and truth. And may God-In-Three-Persons tend your relationships and remind you always that you are loved.

Amen.

Music Ministry

"Trust In You"

ZLC Choir

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.

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

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

on screen

"Taste and See"

ELW #493

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

“Lord of All the Earth”

on screen

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

*Thank you to our choir for leading us in
worship this morning!*

*Thank you to Nancy Schoenherr for making
the beautiful blankets!*

Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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