



**Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**  
***Doubting Ourselves***

**The Doubters' Club**  
**July 2, 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.

*\*The communion bread is homemade by congregation members and contains gluten and honey. For those with allergies or sensitivities, an alternative will be provided upon request. \**

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](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) or Pastor Amy Heinz at 608.498.5772 or [pastoramy@zionstratford.org](mailto: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

## OPENING LITANY

Spirit of the living God, visit us each day of our lives.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Like a rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers,

**come, Holy Spirit.**

Like tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame,

**come, Holy Spirit.**

With speech that unites the Babel of our tongues,

**come, Holy Spirit.**

With love that overlaps the boundaries of race and nation,

**come, Holy Spirit.**

With power from above to make our weakness strong,

**come, Holy Spirit.**

**Amen\*\***

**HYMN**

*"Lead On, O King Eternal!"*

**ELW 805**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

We express our longing for God's leading by our own transparent confession.

Righteous Father,

**we who own more than we use,  
proclaim more than we experience,  
and request more than we need,  
come asking for your forgiveness.**

**We seek your salvation, then act like we save ourselves.**

**We beg your forgiveness, then repeat our errors.**

**We experience your grace, then act defeated.**

**We rely on your power, but only in hard times.**

**We have become confused and misguided.**

**Forgive our every defection.**

**Bring to us an unbroken commitment and a steady trust,  
through Jesus Christ, who is the way of hope, the truth of God,  
and the life of love, now and always.**

**Amen.**

It is true that we have sinned, but it is an even greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven. Live your lives in a new way—the way of love.

**Thanks be to God!**

**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**

**Gracious God,**

**the light of your Son Jesus Christ shines within each of us. Let not our doubts nor our darkness draw us from the task you give us to love one another. Let our hearts always welcome and express your love. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### **We Hear the Word of God**

#### **COMPLEMENTARY READING**

**Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."<sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Then Moses answered, “But look, they may not believe me or listen to me but say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you.’ ” <sup>2</sup> The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” <sup>3</sup> And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake, and Moses drew back from it.

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and seize it by the tail”—so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand— <sup>5</sup> “so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

<sup>6</sup> Again, the LORD said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” He put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, his hand was diseased, as white as snow. <sup>7</sup> Then God said, “Put your hand back into your cloak”—so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body— <sup>8</sup> “If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign. <sup>9</sup> If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

<sup>10</sup> But Moses said to the LORD, “O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”

<sup>11</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?”

<sup>12</sup> Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.” <sup>13</sup> But he said, “O my Lord, please send someone else.” <sup>14</sup> Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, “What of your brother Aaron, the Levite?”

I know that he can speak well; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. <sup>15</sup>You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you what you shall do. <sup>16</sup>He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. <sup>17</sup>Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Miss Piggy’s Lament**

Rev. Amy Heinz

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Just As I Am”*

**ELW 592**

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

*A brief silence*

Gracious God,  
we pray for the faithful all over the world,  
that all who love you may be united in your service.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peoples and leaders of the nations,  
that they may be reconciled one to another  
in pursuit of your justice and peace.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer the effects of prejudice, greed, or violence, that the heart of humanity may warm with your tenderness.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need because of personal calamity, natural disasters, or the greed of others, that they may know the hope of your faithfulness through the help of others.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray that we may live with respect for your creation and use your gifts with reverence.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



We pray for all who suffer the pain of illness, loneliness, fear, or loss, that those whose names are in our hearts, in the hearts of others, or known to you alone, may receive healing, strength, and courage.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion,  
into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy now and forever.

**Amen.\*\***

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **We Share the Meal**

#### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*“Give Thanks”*

**Words on screen**

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Ever-present God,  
with this offering, we present also ourselves:**

**all that we have been,  
all that we are,  
all that we shall become,  
and our resolve to walk in your way.**

**Accept us and our offering and nourish us at your table for  
service in Jesus’ name.**

**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.**

Loving God, you made this world marvelous for us to enjoy. You gave Jesus to be our Savior and friend and to bring us to you. You sent your Spirit to make us one family in Christ. For these gifts of love, we thank you, and we join with angels and saints in this hymn of praise:\*\*

**SANCTUS**

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

**ACS 1089**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS

*“Lamb of God”*

**ELW p. 146**

*“Come, Let Us Eat”*

**ELW 491**

*“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”*

**ELW 484**

## BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## We Serve the World in God's Name

### **BENEDICTION**

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who came with grace and truth, also fill your hearts with grace and truth as you serve him in the days ahead.

And may the joy of the Lord—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be your strength.

**Amen.**

### **CLOSING SONG**

*"Have No Fear, Little Flock"*

**ELW 764**

### **DISMISSAL**

We go in peace to serve in the Spirit of God,  
**with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.**  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **POSTLUDE**

# Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

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## **Zion Lutheran Church**

*Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands*

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