



Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Job's God

Baptism of Delilah Ruby Marquardt

Worship Incorporating a Time of Healing

The Night is Long

July 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.

**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 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

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

"This Is My Father's World"

ELW 824

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,

today we come to you in worship from a multitude of moments, from a variety of backgrounds, from all walks of living, yet one in the Spirit. We humbly give thanks that the promises we count upon remain true today, as they have for generation upon generation. Your mercies are great and everlasting, O Lord, and we give thanks in Jesus' name.

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

READING

Job 38:1-11

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man;

I will question you, and you shall declare to me. ⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? ⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb,

⁹when I made the clouds its garment

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it,

and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Sarcastic God

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Delilah Ruby Marquardt

BAPTISMAL HYMN

“Borning Cry”

ELW 732

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. We pause to name them aloud or silently in our hearts.

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

HEALING PRAYERS OFFERED DURING DISTRIBUTION

We will kneel to receive Holy Communion in a continuous fashion this week. You may also remain standing if you prefer.

**If you wish to receive the laying on of hands and prayers for healing, please proceed to one of the kneelers provided. You may kneel or stand, share your concerns or joys, and receive prayer. **

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 146

“Amazing Grace”

ELW 779

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

ELW 774

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

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

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ELW 836

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

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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