



**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
***Creator***

**Are Your Ears Awake? The Revelation to John**  
**August 6, 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**

*"Earth and All Stars!"*

**ELW 731**

## 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**

**Blessed are you, Lord God, ruler of the universe.**

**In your wisdom, you have called all creation to worship you. Call us to worship you now in this time and place, in unity with prophets, martyrs, and saints from all times and places. Prepare our hearts and minds to hear your word. In Jesus' name, we pray.**

**Amen.**

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

### **READING**

**Rev 4:1-11**

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." <sup>2</sup>At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! <sup>3</sup>And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. <sup>4</sup>Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. <sup>5</sup>Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God, <sup>6</sup>and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and back: <sup>7</sup>the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup>And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

“Holy, holy, holy,  
the Lord God the Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come.”

<sup>9</sup> And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

<sup>11</sup> “You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Casting Our Crowns**

Rev. Amy Heinz

**HYMN**

*“All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”*

**ELW 835**

*v1,2,3,6*

**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**

Grateful for your gifts, O Lord, and mindful of the communion of your saints, we offer to you our prayers for all people.

*A brief silence.*

God of creation,  
our hearts overflow with thankfulness for your good gifts. Where we see beauty, remind us of your sovereignty. Where we see your gifts misused and exploited, remind us of our responsibilities as caretakers of your creation.

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

God of compassion,  
we remember before you the poor and the afflicted, the sick and the dying, prisoners and all who are lonely, the victims of war, injustice, and inhumanity, and all others who suffer. We pause to name them now aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

(a brief pause)

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

God of providence,  
we pray for our country. Inspire the hearts and minds of our  
leaders that they, together with all our nation, may first seek your  
kingdom and righteousness so that order, liberty, justice, and  
peace may dwell with your people.

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

God of relationship,  
we pray for all nations and peoples. Take away the mistrust and  
lack of understanding that divide your creatures; increase in us  
the recognition that we are all your children.

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

God, our Savior,  
look upon your church in its struggle upon the earth. Have mercy  
on its weakness, bring to an end its unhappy divisions, and scatter  
its fears. Look also upon the ministry of your church. Increase its  
courage, strengthen its faith, and inspire its witness in word and  
deed to all people, even to the ends of the earth.

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

God of grace and mercy,  
send your Holy Spirit's blessing upon your children, and grant that  
we may daily respond to your grace by giving ourselves to others  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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**

*"Around You, O Lord Jesus"*

**ELW 468**

*"I Received the Living God"*

**ELW 477**

### 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

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## **Zion Lutheran Church**

***Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands***

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