



Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Judge

Are Your Ears Awake? The Revelation to John
August 27, 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

"In Christ Called to Baptize"

ELW 575

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.**

REETING

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

COMPLEMENTARY READING

John 12:30-32

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

READING

Revelations 14:6-16

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

⁸ Then another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her prostitution.”

⁹ Then another angel, a third, followed them, crying with a loud voice, “Those who worship the beast and its image and receive the brand on their foreheads or on their hands, ¹⁰ they will also drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured unmixed into the cup of his anger, and they will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image and for anyone who receives the brand of its name.”

¹² Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus.

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."

¹⁴ Then I looked, and there was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like the Son of Man, with a golden crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand! ¹⁵ Another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to the one who sat on the cloud, "Use your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶ So the one who sat on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Here Come Da Judge!

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

ELW 705

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

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ELW 810

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

ELW 666

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 *“Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand”* **ELW 441**

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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