



**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
***Re-Creator***

**Are Your Ears Awake? The Revelation to John**  
**September 3, 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**

*"How Great Thou Art"*

**ELW 856**

## 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

### COMPLEMENTARY READING

John 16:20-22

<sup>20</sup> [Jesus said:] Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. <sup>22</sup> So you have pain now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

### READING

Revelations 21:1-5, 22:1-5

**21** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**22** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Are Your Ears Awake?**

Rev. Amy Heinz

**HYMN**    *“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”*    **ELW 771**

### **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**

*“I Am the Bread of Life”*

**ELW 485**

*“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”*

**ELW 494**

## 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**

*“Let All Things Now Living”*

**ELW 881**

#### **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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