



Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
Celebration of First Communion
Worship incorporating a time of healing.

October 29, 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

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place.

Here may the faithful find salvation
and the careless be awakened.

Here may the doubting find faith,
and the anxious be encouraged.

Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful find comfort.

Here may the weary find rest,
and the strong be renewed.

Here may the aged find consolation,
and the young be inspired.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen**

HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

ELW 504

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

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

Mighty God,

your servant Rehoboam divided your kingdom with his tyranny, yet you remained faithful to both kingdoms, even in the midst of conflict. Show us your presence in conflict, and help us to resolve our differences, uniting this world in your name. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Mark 10:42-45

⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

READING

1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. ² When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam remained in Egypt. ³ And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, ⁴ “Your father made our yoke heavy. Now, therefore, lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke that he placed on us, and we will serve you.” ⁵ He said to them, “Go away for three days, then come again to me.” So the people went away.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the older men who had attended his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?” ⁷ They answered him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.” ⁸ But he disregarded the advice that the older men gave him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and now attended him. ⁹ He said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us’?” ¹⁰ The young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus you should say to this people who spoke to you, ‘Your father made our yoke

heavy, but you must lighten it for us'; thus you should say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins. ¹¹ Now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.' "

¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had said, "Come to me again the third day." ¹³ The king answered the people harshly. He disregarded the advice that the older men had given him ¹⁴ and spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions." ¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people because it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD to fulfill his word that the LORD had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.

¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king would not listen to them, the people answered the king,

"What share do we have in David?
We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.
To your tents, O Israel!
Look now to your own house, O David."

So Israel went away to their tents. ¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah.

²⁵ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and resided there; he went out from there and built Penuel. ²⁶ Then Jeroboam said to himself, "Now the kingdom may well revert to the house of David. ²⁷ If this people continues to go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, the heart of this people will turn again to their master, King Rehoboam of Judah; they will kill me and return to King Rehoboam of Judah." ²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold.

He said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” ²⁹ He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

It Is Not So Among You

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

ELW 729

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

Almighty God, in the presence of your bounty, keep us humble, and in the presence of all people's needs make us compassionate and caring.

A brief silence.

We pray for all unhappy lives, those who are bitter and resentful, those who are sensitive to criticism and quick to take offense, and those who desire their own way, whatever the inconvenience or cost to others.

May your judgment and mercy be for their healing.

Hear our fervent prayer.

We pray for those who are lonely, who are shy, and self-conscious, who find it hard to make friends, who ever feel themselves strangers in a world they can scarcely understand. May your presence inspire confidence and ensure companionship.

Hear our fervent prayer.

We pray for those who live with bitter regrets, for loving relationships brought to ruin, for opportunities freely given and woefully abused, for the bitterness of defeat or betrayal at another's hand, or for failure in personal integrity.

May your grace give new hope to find victory at the very scene of failure.

Hear our fervent prayer.

We pray for all in illness and pain, weary of the day and fearful of the night. Grant strength to those who suffer and to those who provide care. We pause now to speak their names either aloud or silently in our hearts.

A brief silence.

May your touch, embodied in our care, bring healing and wholeness.

Hear our fervent prayer.

Bless the company of Christ's body, the church in every land.
Make her eager in worship, fearless in the proclamation of the
gospel, and passionate for caring.
May your Holy Spirit pour out on all people a living faith in you.
Hear our fervent prayer.

Bless our country with compassion for others. Bless our leaders
with wisdom and patience. Bless our children with passion for
service.
May your loving example bring an end to unhappy divisions and
inspire us to live for others.
Hear our fervent prayer.

Bless each of us in the communion of the saints and keep us ever
mindful of the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us
and who will come after us. Make our imperfect faith perfect so
that we may, at the last, receive the fulfillment promised to your
people.
We pray in the great 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

"We Are an Offering"

ELW 692

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, we bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and calling us to be your people. We thank you that you have not abandoned us in our rebellion against your love, but sent prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. Above all, we thank you for sending Jesus, your Son, to deliver us from the way of sin and death by the obedience of his life, by his suffering upon the cross, and by his resurrection from the dead. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and out of every people unites us into one holy church.

Therefore with the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth we worship and glorify you, God most holy, and we sing with joy:**

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW 191

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 the kneeler provided. You may kneel or stand, share your concerns or joys, and receive prayer.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 146

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

ELW 515

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

ELW 612

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us, and the love of God, which enables us to love all, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body, make us eager to obey the will of God until we meet again, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen”

ELW 548

DISMISSAL

We go in peace to love and serve our neighbors,
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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