



Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

**Baptism of Hadley Viola Meyer
Blessing of the Orange**

November 12, 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

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

ELW 671

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

God of Elijah,

with great fire you made your presence known to the worshipers of Baal. Help us to resist the temptation to place our trust and faith in anything other than you. Receive our worship and strengthen our faith. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Mark 9:2-4

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

READING

1 Kings 18:17-39

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” ¹⁸ He answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father’s house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the Israelites and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah then came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him.” The people did not answer him a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal’s prophets number four hundred fifty. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD; the god who answers by fire is indeed God.” All the people answered, “Well spoken!” ²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it.” ²⁶ So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. ²⁷ At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and

must be awakened.”²⁸ Then they cried aloud, and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them.²⁹ As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come closer to me,” and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down;³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, “Israel shall be your name”;³² with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed.³³ Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.”³⁴ Then he said, “Do it a second time,” and they did it a second time. Again he said, “Do it a third time,” and they did it a third time,³⁵ so that the water ran all around the altar and filled the trench also with water.³⁶ At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding.³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God and that you have turned their hearts back.”³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust and even licked up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹ When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD indeed is God; the LORD indeed is God.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Fence Sitting

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN

“Change My Heart, O God”

ELW 801

BLESSING OF THE ORANGE

Everyone who is going hunting, or who is involved with hunting, is asked to stand and read the portions on the screen of the prayers marked for hunters.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Hadley Viola Meyer

BAPTISMAL HYMN

“Baptized and Set Free”

ELW 453

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, 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

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 146

“Come, Let Us Eat”

ELW 491

“Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”

ELW 492

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.

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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