



First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024 + 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 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

LENTEN PRAYER OF INVOCATION

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,
for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,
for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,
for we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.

O come, let us worship the Lord!**

HYMN

"Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling"

ELW 608

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Most merciful God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin,

we confess before you our own sinfulness;

we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;

we have compromised with evil;

we have doubted your power to protect us.

Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. Amen.

The Lord God said, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!

In the name of + Jesus Christ,
our sins are pardoned.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

May the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord in whom we trust,

**when asked to give everything to follow Jesus, a rich man
faltered. Give us the courage to give everything that we have to
you, knowing that what you offer is more valuable than all the
riches of the world. In Jesus' name we pray.**

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Psalm 19:7-10

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;

⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;

⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

READING

Mark 10:17-31

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’ ” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN

“When the Poor Ones”

ELW 725

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

O Jesus, you know the anguish of our human lives.

As one who sees the pain of those who suffer, bring comfort, peace, and strength, especially for all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who has experienced the agony of and tears of losing loved ones, comfort all who grieve, especially all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who understands the agony of those who have been deserted, stand alongside those who feel alone, lonely, and abandoned today, especially all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who was once forsaken by all others, give hope and assurance to those who feel rejection, especially all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who knows the ravages of violence, bring peace and healing to those who are tortured by enemies, especially all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You, our Lord, have offered up prayers with loud cries and tears; hear us when we do the same.

We approach your throne of grace with boldness; may we receive mercy and grace in our time of need.

Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We Share the Meal

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Come to the Table of Mercy”

ELW 481

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Compassionate God,
we gratefully return to you these gifts of our time and labor.
Receive the offering of our whole lives and feed us with your
grace, that in the midst of death all creation might feast on your
unending life in Jesus Christ, our Lord.
In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

It is indeed right for us to give you our thanks and praise, O Lord our God, sustainer of the universe.

At your command all things came to be. You brought forth the human race and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us stewards of creation, but we turned against you and betrayed your trust.

Yet your mercy is like a spring that never fails. You yourself, in Christ your Son, come to deliver us; you redeem us in your love and pity; you create new heavens and a new earth where the cry of distress is heard no more.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory in this unending hymn:**

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p. 153

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Lamb of God"

ELW p. 191

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"

ELW 479

"I Am the Bread of Life"

ELW 485

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

"Jesus, Still Lead On"

ELW 624

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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