



Take heart;
get up, he is
calling you.

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 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

"We Eat the Bread of Teaching"

ELW 518

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 Jesus,

it was hard for your disciples to hear that they would have to suffer in order to follow you. Give us faith and courage to follow you when following is painful or frightening. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Psalm 34:11-14

- ¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- ¹² Which of you desires life
and covets many days to enjoy good?
- ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
- ¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

³² They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the gentiles; ³⁴ they will mock him and spit upon him and flog him and kill him, and after three days he will rise again.”

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶ And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹ They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. 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.”

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” ⁵² Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Sara Bishop

HYMN

“Love Consecrates the Humblest Act”

ELW 360

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, came 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

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

ELW 612

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

ELW 708

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

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

ELW 697

DISMISSAL

We go in peace to love and serve our neighbors,

with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

***Thank you to the Rev. Sara Bishop for sharing
Word and Sacrament with us this morning!***

Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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