



*The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.*

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**March 3, 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](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

## 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

*"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"*

ELW 645

## 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**

**Living Word of God,**

**you spoke words to Jerusalem's leaders that were hard to hear.**

**Give us ears to receive your word of life so that we may follow  
you faithfully. In Jesus' name we pray.**

**Amen.**

### **We Hear the Word of God**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **COMPLEMENTARY READING**

**Psalm 86:9-13**

<sup>8</sup> There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.

<sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.

<sup>10</sup> For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD,  
that I may walk in your truth;

give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup> I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify your name forever.

<sup>13</sup> For great is your steadfast love toward me;  
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

## READING

**Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]**

<sup>12</sup> Then he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the winepress, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went away. <sup>2</sup> When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. <sup>3</sup> But they seized him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>4</sup> And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. <sup>5</sup> Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. <sup>6</sup> He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>7</sup> But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' <sup>8</sup> So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. <sup>9</sup> What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup> Have you not read this scripture:

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;

<sup>11</sup> this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes?'"

<sup>12</sup> When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

<sup>13</sup> Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. <sup>14</sup> And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? <sup>15</sup> Should we pay them, or should we not?” But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” <sup>16</sup> And they brought one. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” They answered, “Caesar’s.” <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Gary Hedding

**HYMN**

*“Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand”*

**ACS 1024**

**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 up 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**

*"I Come with Joy"*

**ELW 482**

*"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"*

**ELW 492**

## **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**

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

**ELW 840**

#### **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. Gary Hedding for sharing  
Word and Sacrament with us this morning!***

# Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

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## **Zion Lutheran Church**

***Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands***

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